■ Magazine / Q1

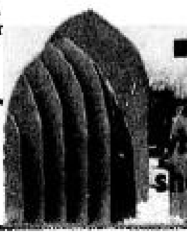
Bianca Gonzales: Enjoying her time in the sun

■ Lifestyle / F2

Mecca for Pinoy, foreign divers with 23 diving sites

■News / A2

Nationwide Labor Day rally today to demand pay hike



■ Lifestyle / G2

Travel with a husband who gives me $100 shopping allowance

■ Entertainment /A2-2

Coke, Jollibee, Greenwich pull out of 'The Buzz', 'S-Files'

JOB Market

Where you find the best jobs

US envoy says he'll miss driving people crazy in RP

BYE! ILANG BUWAN KO NA LANG KAYO GUGULUHIN!

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Upsetting some people—this is what US Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli will miss when he leaves the Philippines

US ENVOY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Rape victims who file court cases continue to be on trial

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

EXPECTATIONS of "rational and reasonable behavior" even in extremely traumatic situations continue to put rape survivors on trial for filing cases in court.

This was how a lawyer, a woman's advocate and a psychiatrist explained the acquittal

RAPE/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, May 1, 2005 ★★ 134 pages / 19 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 142 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Anti-GMA allies split as leader walks out

JOAN BONDOC

ABAT's vision: Abolish GMA, Congress

A nuisance, gov't says of Abat's junta plan

By Fe Zamora, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Dona Pazzibugan, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Jolene R. Bulambot

THEIR dreams were grand—a new government, the abolition of Congress, no more pork barrel, a new Constitution, new hope—but the unity of the group hatching those dreams immediately cracked yesterday.

Four hours after he launched the alliance Coalition for National Salvation at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat walked out of the gathering.

This came after Abat rejected calls from coalition members to join a planned mammoth Labor Day rally scheduled for today.

Abat's vision included ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo through a "people power" uprising, installation of a revolutionary council, rewriting the Constitution and establishing a federal-type government.

The administration's response was swift and clear.

"We are dealing with nuisances but there are no serious or immediate threats to national security and stability of the government," Ms Arroyo said in a speech in Tagaytay City last night. She said she was in full control of the situation.

The Armed Forces warned Abat, an 80-year-old retired Army general, against crossing the "thin line" between legitimate protest and sedition.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz dismissed the "Program for National Salvation" Abat spelled out before the media as outrageous, and said it was doomed to fail.

In Cebu City, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said some groups were plotting to destabilize the Arroyo administration and that they might start moving today.

"It's true that there are moves for destabilization. It has been going on. It's a desperate move from the group of Erap's [former President Joseph Estrada's]

ANTI-GMA/ A9

REM ZAMORA

THE SOUND of rotor blades blending with Ride of the Valkyries, the Wagner opus that accompanied the flight of UH-1H helicopters in Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," won't be heard for some time as the aging war birds, nicknamed Hueys, remain grounded following the crash that killed former chief volcanologist Raymundo Punongbayan and eight others on Thursday. But they are bearers as well of mercy missions like the aircraft above hovering over war-torn Panamao in Sulu to ferry relief goods.

Grateful Aeta set tribal tribute to Punongbayan

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—They were unschooled; he was a scientist. But when the Aeta of Zambales reported through a nun Mount Pinatubo's initial signs of unrest in April 1991, Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan listened and trusted their indigenous mastery of their environment.

It was through that mutual faith between the Aeta and Punongbayan that efforts to save lives began for what turned out to be the world's worst volcanic eruption in the second half of the 20th century.

In gratitude to the late former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Aeta leaders have started preparations for a tribal offering *(atang)* and a tribute.

A *mag-aanito* (healer and spirit guide) usually presides over the ritual which, in this case, will also include prayers for the peace of the souls of the four scientists and four crew members who died with Punongbayan on Thursday in a helicopter crash in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija.

Punongbayan and the others were on their way back to Manila after an aerial assessment of the threat of more landslides in Dingalan, Aurora, when the crash occurred.

Carlito Domulot, chair of the Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Ayta ng Sambales (Lakas, or Negrito People's Alliance of Zambales), said community elders and members were now discussing the details of the *atang* to the mountain deity Apo Namalyari.

Domulot said they learned about the tragic crash from TV news reports, and were "really saddened."

He said they also planned to attend Punongbayan's wake to honor him and join his family in mourning.

The present Phivolcs chief, Dr. Renato Solidum, said the wake would be held only after the completion of the DNA tests being conducted on the remains to establish identities.

Solidum said the process would take about three weeks.

He said Phivolcs was also preparing a

GRATEFUL/ A8

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SENATORS Loi and Jinggoy Estrada lead family members in rehearsals for Doña Mary's 100th birthday at the Manila Hotel.

MA TURNS 100

Erap celebrates '10 decades of love'

By Volt Contreras

FOUR generations. 140 descendants. One town mayor. Two senators.

And one jailed ex-President.

A vast clan, led by a "black sheep" gathers tomorrow for the 100th birthday of Mary Marcelo Ejercito, mother of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The family is celebrating the matriarch's centennial with a grand dinner party at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion, complete with video tributes and song-and-dance numbers by her children, down to the great grandchildren. The lone *apo sa talampakan*—a great-great-grandson—is in the US and will not be able to attend.

Up to 700 people are expected to attend the party, with the Ejercito family tree counting 147 members.

The former President is the eighth of 10 children (three are deceased). Down the line are 36 grandchildren, 62 great grandchildren, and a fourth-generation grandson aged four.

The finale is reserved, of course, for her most controversial son, Joseph. The former movie actor best known for tough-guy roles will lead his siblings in serenading their mother with a new version of his signature song "Kahit na Magtiis."

Estrada's media coordinator, Ferdie Ramos, said the ex-President, who penned the song's lyrics, had revised the lines, changing what was originally a ballad of fortitude into a poem of gratitude.

Estrada had also "meticulously selected" the menu for the sit-down dinner, according to Ramos.

The deposed leader will signal the start of the program by ushering the wheelchair-bound Mrs. Ejercito into the ballroom. The overture of "Anak Dalita," the birthday celebrant's favorite Tagalog song, will be played during this "grand entrance," Ramos said.

Now on his fourth year of trial for plunder, Estrada was allowed by the Sandiganbayan to leave his resthouse in Tanay, Rizal, where he is under detention, to attend what is expected to be another emotional reunion with his mother.

The court gave Estrada, 68, seven hours to savor the occasion, which incidentally falls on a non-working holiday and follows the anniversary of the bloody May 1 "Edsa III" march staged by his followers in 2001.

His latest public appearance comes two weeks after a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed that he still enjoyed a 44-percent trust rating long after his downfall.

"We just want this to be purely a tribute to a matriarch," said one of Estrada's sons, San Juan Mayor

ERAP/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/05/01/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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All over RP, thousands to march for higher pay

DISGUSTED with the government's failure to address their demand for a wage hike, militant labor groups said they would mobilize thousands of their members in street marches and rallies today, Labor Day.

The protest actions will be held nationwide, including in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, and the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu, Davao and Iligan, according to the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Partido ng Manggagawa.

In Manila, the BMP and PM said they would be joining the Broad Alliance for Workers' Interest (BAWI) in a march from the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City to Mendiola.

In a build-up to the Labor Day celebration, some 300 women workers under the BMP-Kababaihan lit torches and held a noise barrage at Welcome Rotonda yesterday, assailing the Arroyo administration "for playing deaf and blind to the plight of the workers in the midst of the deepening economic and social crisis."

"Workers nationwide demand across-the-board wage increases. What we got are more price increases and new taxes," said BMP chair Victor Briz in a statement.

The groups are demanding a P125 across-the-board increase for workers in the private sector and P3,000 for the public sector.

They also demanded an immediate stop to deregulation, privatization and liberalization policies which they said had massively dislocated workers and farmers.

Briz said these were the root causes of perennial unemployment, the rising cost of living and deteriorating social services.

The militants said the Arroyo administration has perpetuated the policy of cheap labor by fixing wages to the barest minimum and denying workers, through stringent laws, the full freedom to organize, bargain collectively and go on strike.

Of the country's more than 16 million wage and salaried workers, 1.6 million are organized in about 17,000 unions, while only 555,000 are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

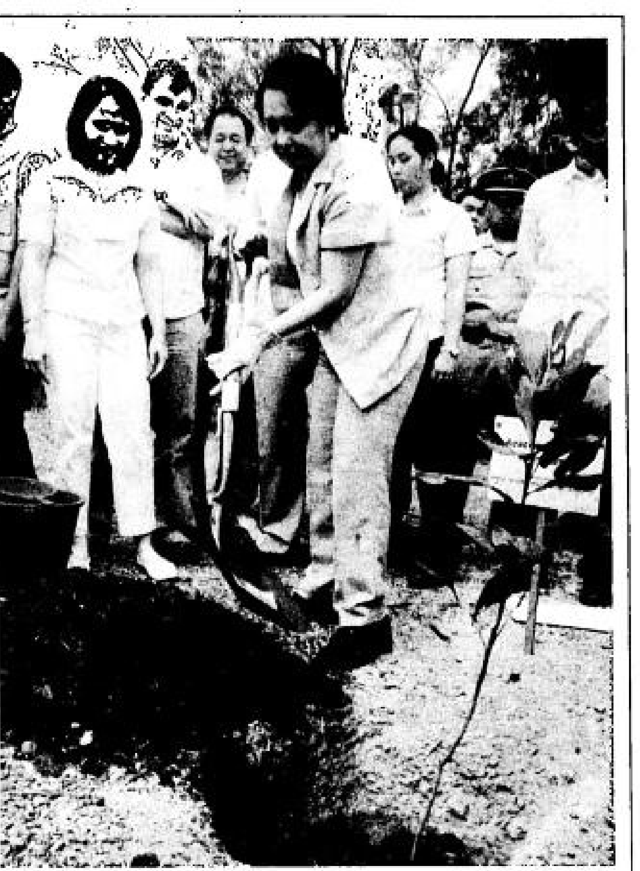
Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said President Macapagal-Arroyo would be able to give a significant gift to the workers today by certifying as urgent the pro-labor bills in Congress.

These are House Bill No. 345, seeking a P125 across-the-board wage increase, and HB 4240 seeking to grant income tax exemptions to workers earning P20,000 and below per month.

In Davao City, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Congress was doubling its efforts to start deliberations on the wage hike proposals.

"I'll assure the labor groups that Congress will act on their demand because we have already finished tackling the tax measures," he said.

But Nograles said the capability of employers to grant wage increases should also be considered. *Tina G. Santos, Metro Manila, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Anthony S. Allada and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



CEREMONIAL TREE. President Macapagal-Arroyo leads the ceremonial tree planting to mark the inauguration yesterday of the Atlas Mining waste biodemediation project in Toledo City.

PCPO

GMA to meet labor leaders over 'baked mac'

WHILE rumors swirled of another attempt to bring down the government and militant labor prepared to stage anti-government protests nationwide, Malacañang said President Macapagal-Arroyo will be marking Labor Day in a meeting with labor leaders and workers over baked macaroni, barbecue and turon.

"It is business as usual for the President and the rest of the country as peace-loving Filipinos are one in ignoring the feeble attempts of an isolated cabal to assail our democratic system," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

"Let us remember that May 1 is a special day reserved for our workers. It is not an occasion to sow the seeds of unrest that jeopardize their future in a vibrant democratic society," Bunye said.

The official Labor Day celebration will begin with a Mass for peace and solidarity at 10 a.m. in Malacañang, to be followed by brunch with at least 300 workers belonging to labor groups under the Labor Solidarity Movement.

The President is expected to give her response to a 10-point workers' manifesto submitted by the labor groups.

The manifesto drafted by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) calls for: A P78 a day across-the-board wage hike for private-sector workers and the passage of the third phase of the Salary Standardization Law for government workers, and the exemption of workers earning minimum pay from the withholding tax, among other things.

It also calls for the outlawing of contractualization, labor-only contracting and agency hiring; the repeal and review of the Oil Deregulation Act; enforcement of price controls on basic goods and services; a sustained fight against corruption, tax evasion and smuggling; speedy dispensation of labor cases; universal health care coverage; allocation of idle public lands for housing, and the strengthening of tripartite agencies.

A leader of the militant Bayan Muna yesterday claimed that Malacañang had organized a pro-administration rally at Mendiola to counter the anti-government protests.

"Those who will join will be paid," said Bayan Muna deputy secretary general Robert de Castro in a statement. *Gil C. Cabacungan, Metro Manila, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Probe of OFWs' plight urged

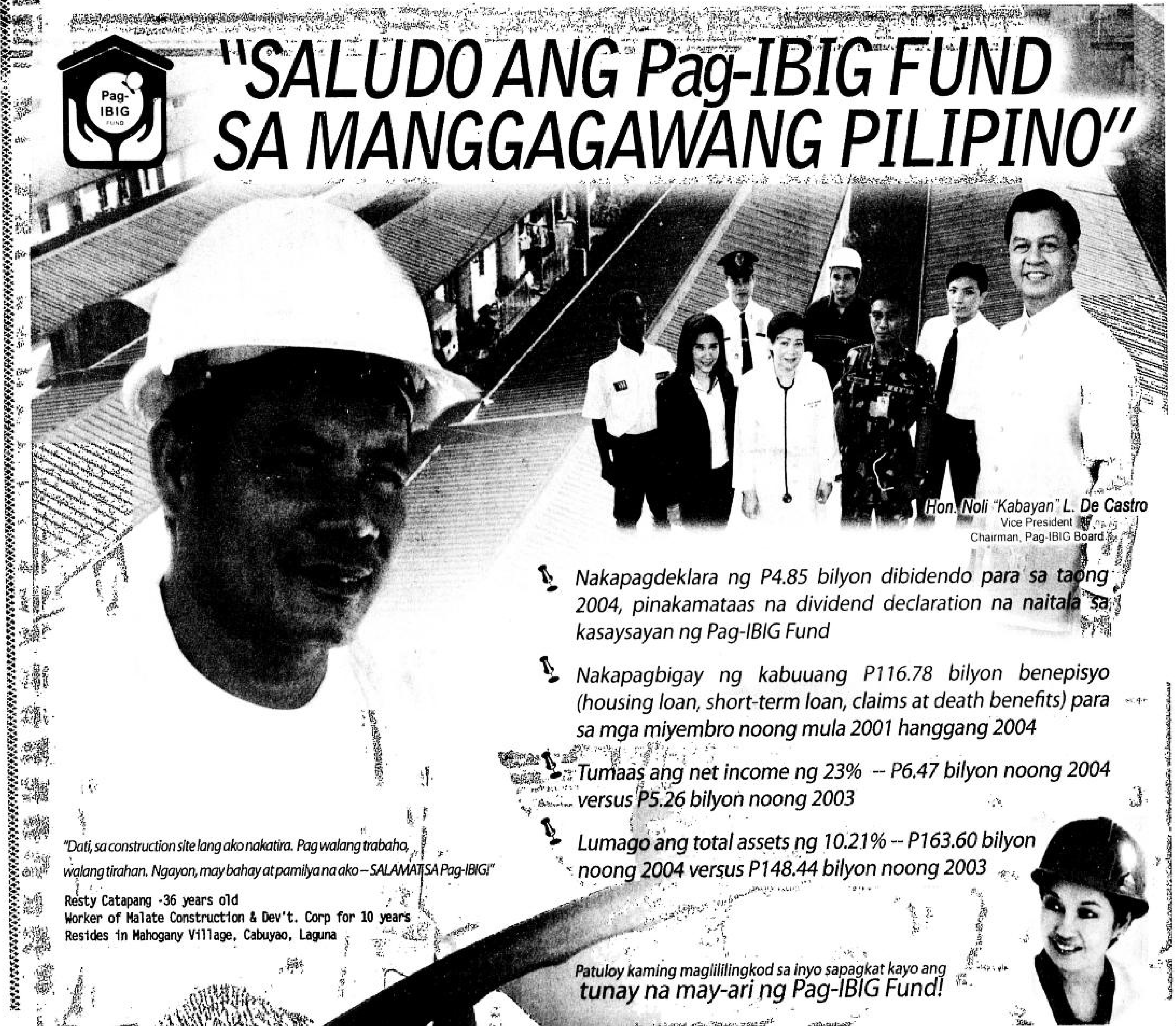
DON'T forget the rights of the country's modern day heroes the overseas Filipino workers.

Reminding the government that the Philippine economy was being kept afloat with the hard-earned dollars of OFWs, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday called for better protection for them on the occasion of Labor Day.

"If our government is aggressively deploying Filipinos to work abroad, then it must just as aggressively work toward protecting their rights and ensuring that they are not treated as modern-day slaves and that they are given commensurate compensation for their labor," Santiago said.

Specifically, Santiago wants the Senate to investigate the plight of Filipino caregivers working in Canada.

"Reports have reached my office that many of our compatriots who are working overseas as caregivers are allegedly underpaid yet overworked," Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign affairs, said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*



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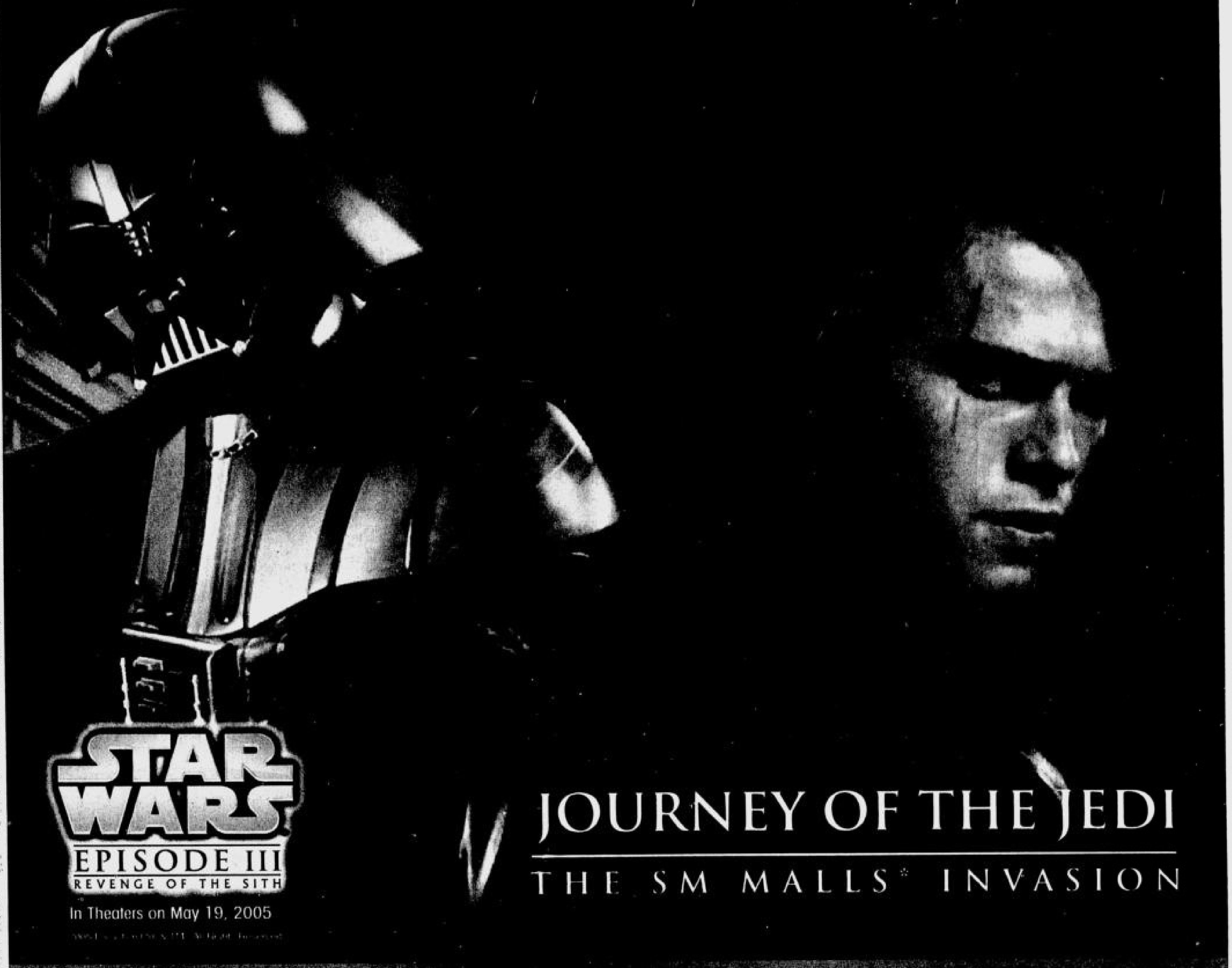

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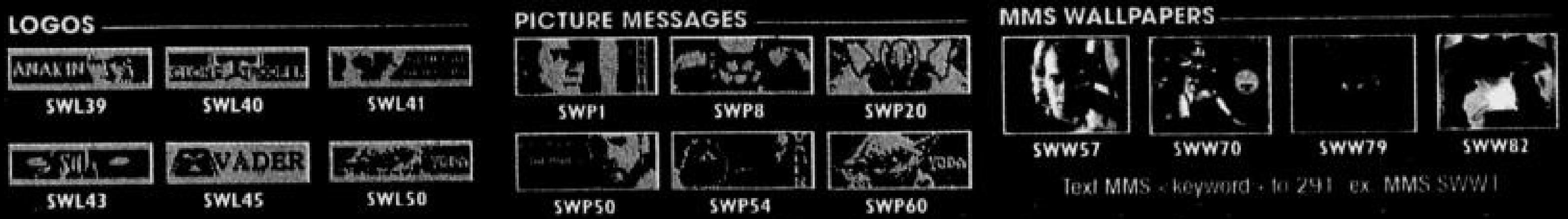

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Identifying crash victims' remains a daunting task

By Nikko Dizon and Blanche Rivera

HOPES of finding the remains of three victims of the ill-fated UH-1H Huey 324 helicopter crash Thursday have dimmed after three days of scouring the crash site and digging into the wreckage, a Philippine Air Force (PAF) official said yesterday.

"At this moment, we are still searching. We are hoping to find even just small pieces of (human) bones," Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The missing victims were among the Huey's five passengers—geo-scientist Raymundo Punongbayan, former director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and current Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) director, and four Phivolcs scientists.

The remains of the four Air Force men who perished in the crash had already been identified.

Padilla said that late Friday, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) positively identified the remains of the chopper's co-pilot, 1st Lt. Jason Salazar, and crewmember Staff Sgt. Edgar Ramolete.

Their bodies were badly mangled and burned but were identified through their flying suits, Padilla said.

The Huey's pilot, 1st Lt. Reynaldo Gerodias, and another crewmember, Sgt. Whilberto Tacata, were immediately identified since their bodies were intact because they were thrown out of the chopper.

The remains of Tacata, Salazar and Ramolete are at the Air Force mortuary at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Gerodias' remains were flown to his hometown of Pikit, North Cotabato, on an Air Force C-130 yesterday morning.

Padilla said that if no bones were found, the military search and rescue team would just collect the ashes from the area where the unaccounted for victims were most likely positioned—the passenger cabin.

"The helicopter's fuel bladder was right under the floor of the passenger cabin," Padilla said.

The Huey had just refueled at Fort Magsaysay in Laur when it crashed into Mt. Namat in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, Thursday morning.

Padilla said the ashes would be turned over by the Air Force to PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon.

Parajumpers of the 505th Search and Rescue group that retrieved six bodies said on Friday that the remains of three victims had been reduced to ashes.

Gordon has asked the help of the US embassy in Manila in identifying the remains of the chopper crash victims.

Gordon said he has spoken with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli regarding the assistance that the United States could extend in identifying the bodies, or what's left of them.

He said the US embassy was willing to lend its expertise in forensics, particularly in DNA testing, to confirm the identities of the fatalities.

He said reports from the Air Force underscored the need for DNA testing to be conducted in order to confirm the victims' identities.

Rescuers reported that some remains were practically impossible to identify.

CHED's advice to parents, guardians and college students:

Enrol only in schools with government authority to offer degree programs

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Give us the funds, we'll fly right, says PAF exec

By Nikko Dizon

A PHILIPPINE Air Force (PAF) official said yesterday that the long-delayed modernization of the military is in the hands of politicians who are calling for its implementation in the wake of the tragic crash of a UH-1H Huey helicopter that killed nine people, including the country's top geo-scientist.

"The ball is in their court," Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

Padilla said that military units like the Air Force were only on the receiving end of the budget that Congress allocates yearly.

"Give us our wherewithal and we'll deliver the service," he said.

Padilla stressed that despite having to make do with hand-me-down aircraft, the Air Force continues to do its work.

Most of the Air Force's current fleet of aircraft are hand-me-downs or refurbished.

Lack of funds has hampered any new acquisitions of aircraft.

The Air Force's plan to acquire a squadron of 18 new multi-role aircraft has remained on the drawing board for two decades, while the air forces of countries around Asia have modernized their fleets.

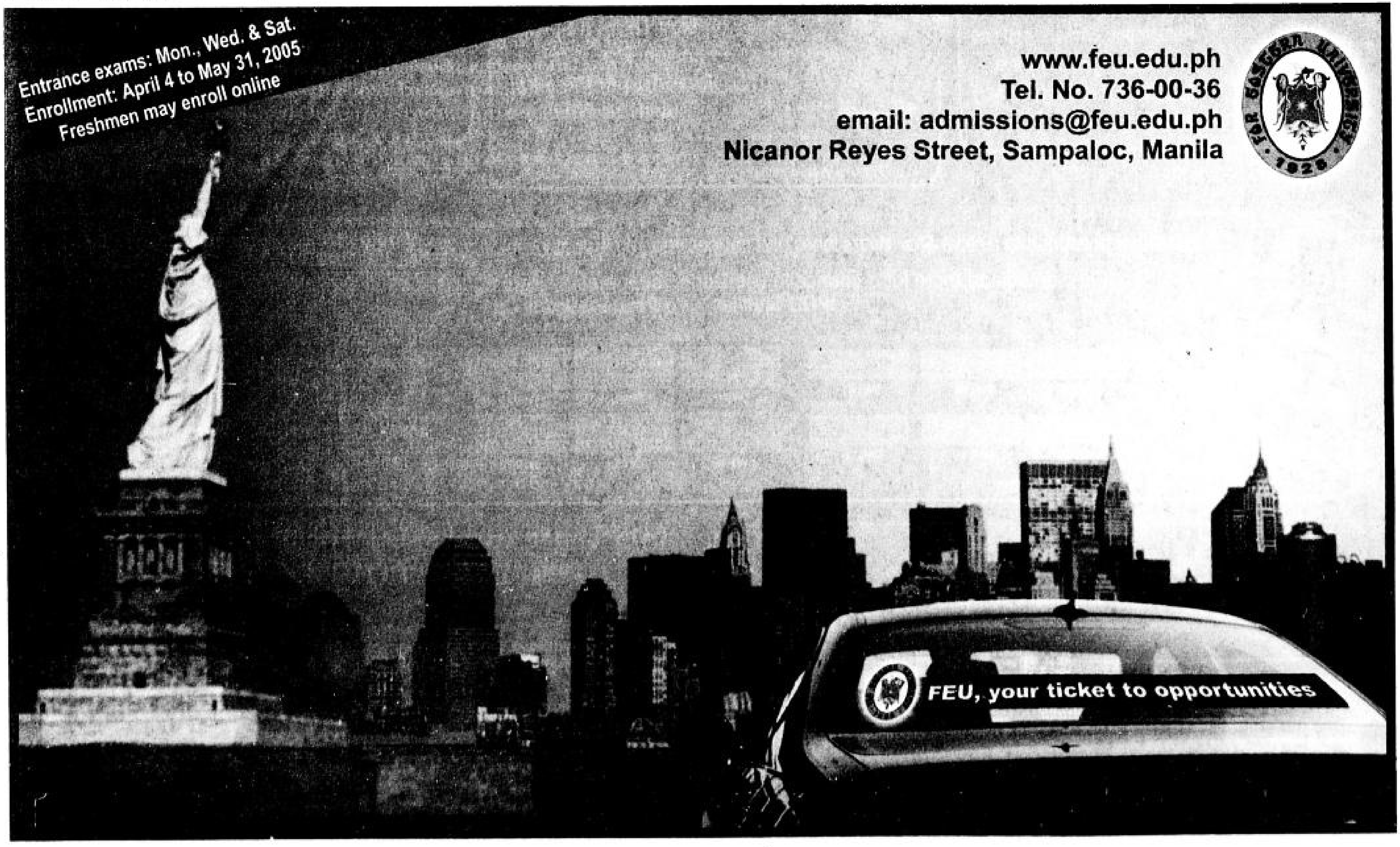
Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand have modern fighter jets like the US-made F-16 and the F-29 Foxbat produced by Russia.

A tight budget has also forced the Air Force to "cannibalize" its aircraft, where instead of purchasing new spare parts, mechanics replace a defective part with a good one taken from another aircraft.

Despite this, Padilla said, the Air Force continues to swear allegiance to the Constitution.

"We are too busy mourning our dead to join any attempts at destabilization or government takeover," Padilla said when sought for comment on the latest rumored plot to take over the government through a junta.

BOOKS FOR FILIPINOS
British Ambassador to Manila Peter Beckingham meets with Socorro Ramos and the management of National Book Stores to discuss mutually beneficial projects that would promote British products, particularly books, among Filipinos. Ramos heads National, the largest bookstore chain in the Philippines.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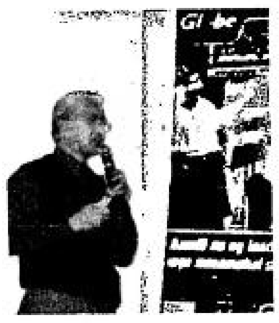
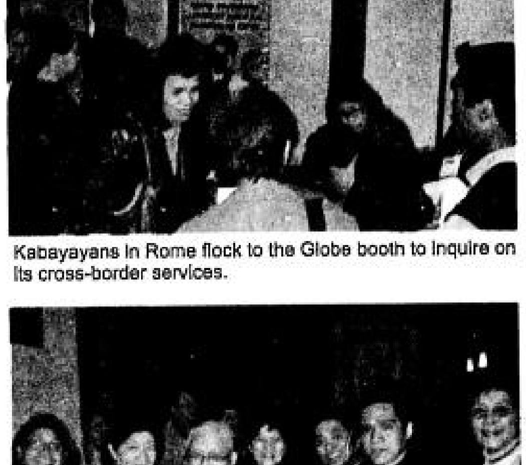
Consul Maria Cella Feria of Madrid welcomes the Ayala contingent and OFWs to Barcelona, Spain

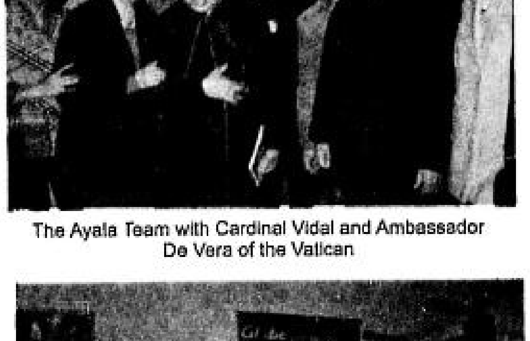


F.J. Colayco during his opening spiel

Vicky Garchitorena, President of Ayala Foundation, speaks in front of community leaders in Italy



Kabayayans in Rome flock to the Globe booth to inquire on its cross-border services.



The Ayala Team with Cardinal Vidal and Ambassador De Vera of the Vatican

Long-time Milan resident Betty Corpuz and family, the newest retailers of Globe Kababayan's Quick Remit and Load and International AutoloadMAX in Italy.

Apart from being away from their families, one of the biggest challenges for approximately 8 million Filipinos working abroad is making the most out of their hard-earned money. Not only do they need to deal with their day-to-day expenses, they also need to take into consideration the financial needs of their families in the Philippines.

Knowing just how important proper financial management is for Pinoys abroad, Globe Kababayan, Globe Telecom's service arm for the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), together with its sister companies in the Ayala Group, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI) recently brought well-known financial adviser Francisco J. Colayco to Europe specifically in Barcelona, Spain, Rome, Milan and Bologna, Ital and finally in Essex and London, United Kingdom.

The secret is in your savings

Mr. Francisco J. Colayco imparted important knowledge to hundreds of OFWs who were eager to learn the basic techniques in proper management of their hard-earned money while working abroad. Armed with his rich experience as a business consultant amongst Philippine corporations and as financial adviser to OFWs via *Money Talk* in RPN 9 and his radio program in RMN 588, Mr. Colayco shared the importance of setting aside a percentage of one's income.

As he said himself, "If there is one thing that one should not forget in my seminars, it is to have an 80-20 rule. You should spend 80% for all your needs and wants and then allocate at least 20% of it for your own savings which you have to grow through taking part in various investment options." This rather simple financial tip, when followed religiously, can actually help change one's lifestyle dramatically.

As such, the OFWs who attended the series of "*Kalayaan sa Kakapusan*" seminars throughout Europe were truly grateful for the unique opportunity given by Globe Kababayan, BPI and LPHI. These were held in Barcelona at the Museu de Arte Y Cultura de Barcelona, in Rome at Pontefico Collegio Filippino, in Bologna at CISL, Via Millazo 16, in Milan at Infostrada Milano Sport, in London at FM Pasyalan and at Essex at St. Theresa's Hall.

In addition to the OFW attendees, honorable members of the Philippine Embassies and even the president of the Ayala Foundation, Ms. Vicky Garchitorena, also graced the event.

The Colayco Seminar series in Europe also gave attendees the chance to win exciting prizes including *Globe Call and Text Cards*, sample copies of FJC's best-selling book, and local airfare in a preferred vacation spot in the Philippines. A winner of a round-trip airline ticket will also be drawn amongst the attendees from all the venues after the series.

The seminar also gave Pinoys the chance to know more about Globe Kababayan's relentless pursuit to keep them connected to their families through easy and reliable services like *International AutoloadMAX*, *Globe G-Cash International Remittance via Text* and *Quick Remit & Load* cards which are available in Europe.

The heart is where happiness springs

For Filipinos working in Europe, being away from the country – in an entirely different continent becomes much more tolerable by holding on to their dreams and by keeping the communication lines open. With Globe Kababayan behind them every step of the way by bringing unique services and opportunities, OFWs can hope for a brighter future while never being completely away from home.

So let your loved ones abroad feel your constant presence in their lives. Switch to Globe or TM now so you can be assured of more opportunities of keeping in touch. For more info, text KABABAYAN to 2279 or log on to www.globekababayan.com.ph.

Phil. Consul General in Milan, Romeo Manalo with Globe's Alan Supnet and Cleo Santos

Globe's Alan Supnet and FJ Colayco with Philippine Ambassador in Rome, Philip Lhuiller and Rome's Labor Attache Alicia Santos.

Winners of the best-selling book with FJ Colayco, Danilo Puga of LPHI and Raul Dimayuga of BPI

OFWs in Barcelona listening intently to the rudiments of saving and investing their hard-earned money while abroad.

Globe
Kababayan

More Pinoys meeting needs but poor poorer, survey says

WHILE an increasing number of Filipinos are able to meet their food, clothing, housing, medicine and education needs, a Pulse Asia Inc. survey showed that the improvement in consumption adequacy has been limited only to the upper classes with the poor getting more hard up in meeting the basic necessities of life.

The same survey showed that while food, housing and clothing appeared to be a diminishing concern for most Filipinos, one out of two households were having a difficult time paying for their medical bills and schooling expenses.

In its March consumption adequacy score (CAS) survey (which asks respondents whether their food, housing, clothing, medicine and money for schooling were sufficient), Pulse Asia said that 74.8 percent of the respondents reported that their consumption needs were satisfied compared to 66.4 percent in a similar survey held last October.

But while the survey showed an improvement, this was nothing to crow about.

Since most respondents would naturally underestimate their consumption adequacy rating, a 90 percent score is perfect.

"If only the officially poor families (24.7 percent of the population) were to consistently indicate that their needs in each of the five components were not adequately being met, the resulting score would be about 83 percent. Thus, a score of 75 percent or even 80 percent is not high," Pulse Asia said.

A household's inability to meet the five basic needs was acute in Mindanao as the consumption adequacy score fell to 67.5 percent in March this year from 75.4 percent in October. Metro Manila, Luzon and the Visayas chalked up higher scores in the March survey but none were higher than 81.4 percent.

Pulse Asia also noted that the scores of the D2 class (or families vulnerable to poverty) and the E class, or the poorest, had barely improved from October to March. The gap in satisfaction between these two classes were substantially wider than the difference between Metro Manila and Mindanao, or between urban and rural areas.

In the poverty scorecard (which surveyed the adequacy or inadequacy of each of the family's five basic needs), Pulse Asia reported that 46 percent of Filipinos said they could not meet their medicine requirements and the schooling expenses of their children.

The survey also showed that 67 percent of Filipinos found their food adequate for their needs, up from 57 percent in the March survey.

Pulse Asia noted that fewer Filipinos cited the lack of food as an urgent personal need (29 percent, the lowest since March 1999), probably due to unconfirmed reports of increased rice production in some parts of the country, particularly the Visayas.

The survey also showed that one in three families had adequate housing and clothing though.

The Pulse Asia poverty scorecard overall showed an improvement in positive responses in all the five basic necessities since the previous survey.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 1, 2005
St. Joseph the Worker

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17
They received the Holy Spirit

Philip went down to a town of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. All the people paid close attention to what Philip said as they listened to him and saw the miraculous signs which he did. For in cases of possession, the unclean spirits came out shrieking loudly. Many people who were paralyzed or crippled were healed. So there was great joy in that town.

Now, when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. They went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not as yet come down upon any of them since they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. So Peter and John laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading: 1st Peter 3:15-18
Suffering with the mentality of Christ

Dear brothers and sisters, bless the Lord Christ in your hearts. Always have an answer ready when you are called upon to account for your hope, but give it simply and with respect. Keep your conscience clear so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your upright, Christian living. Better to suffer for doing good, if it is God's will, than for doing wrong.

Remember how Christ died, once and for all, for our sins. He, the just one, died for the unjust in order to lead us to God. He died as humans do, but was raised to life by the Spirit.

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21
The Father will give you the Spirit

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper to 'be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he is with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphans, I am coming to you. A little while and the world will see me no more; but you will see me because I live and you will also live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you.

"Whoever keeps my commandments is the one who loves me. If he loves me, he will also be loved by my Father; I too shall love him and show myself clearly to him."

Commentary

IN this Easter season we are being taught by the Word of Jesus, the Scriptures, in the power of the Spirit all that is necessary for us to live and to love as the servants and friends of God in the world. Jesus speaks to us as intimates, those devoted to him and in love with God the Father as he has loved God the Father. We are invited into that love and by the power of the resurrection life shared with us in baptism we are all summoned to love, to express that love and live it out in the world, loving in obedience and gratefulness for having been so loved by God in Jesus. It is the gift of the Spirit, the first gift given to those who believe that it teaches us, reminds us, inheres in us, binding us as one to the Father and Jesus. We know that Jesus and we are one in the Father by the power of the Spirit who is our Helper. This Spirit is given in baptism, but it is given to the Church, to communities for help in loving in a world that resists and is not always open to the Word of God. We must remember and let the Spirit lay claim to our lives.

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Contractor sues RP envoy in HK

HONG KONG—The Philippine consul general to Hong Kong has been slapped with a civil suit for alleged breach of contract over the HK$1.5 million renovation of her official residence.

Consul General Corazon Belmonte-Jover was sued on April 22 in Hong Kong's district court by the contractor for the project, Roland Ilan of Makro Designs Hong Kong.

Ilan is claiming HK$479,313 from Jover in actual costs and damages.

The consulate's vice consul and finance and property officers were also named as respondents, for signing the termination of a "compromise agreement" between Jover and Ilan, which was brokered by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The respondents are expected to be issued a writ within a week. They have 14 days to either satisfy the claim against them, or declare their intention to contest the claim.

Reports from the DFA indicate a copy of the summons has been sent by fax to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Ilan was contracted to carry out the renovation work on the residence at 3 Kotewall Rd. Mid-Levels, Hong Kong, on June 24, 2004. He was supposed to finish the project within 90 days.

Under the contract, he was to be paid 60 percent of the contract price outright, with the succeeding payment of an additional 15 percent to be made when the work was at least 50 percent complete.

The work was not finished on time, and both parties now blame each other for the delay.

Daisy C.L. Mandap, Contributor

Purita K. Ledesma; 91

ART HISTORIAN Purita Kalaw-Ledesma died on April 29 after a lingering illness. She was 91.

Ledesma was the principal author of "Struggle for Philippine Art" (1974) .and "Edades–National Artist" (1979).

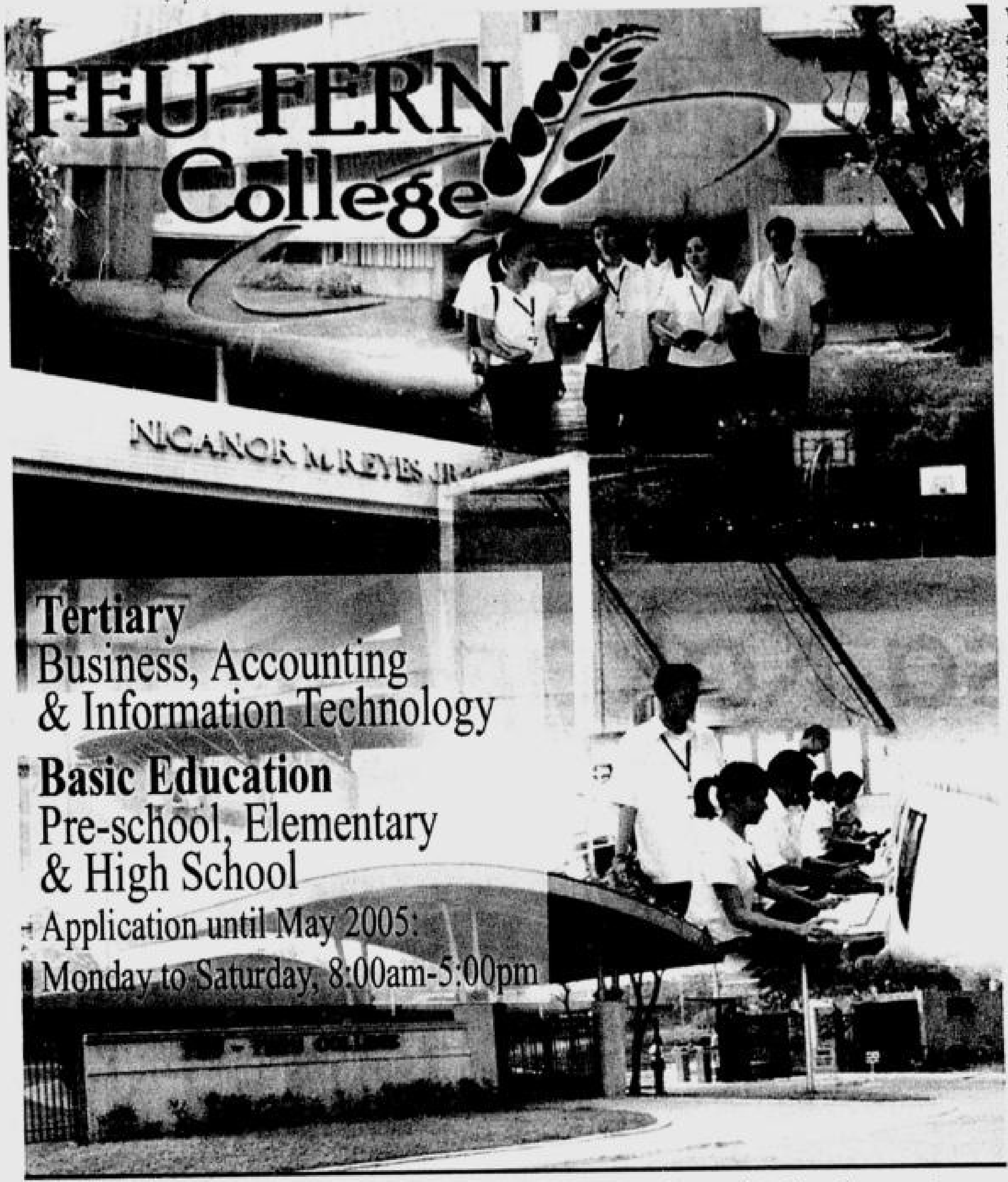
Her autobiography, "And Life Goes On," was published in the mid-90s.

Ledesma is survived by her daughters Rita Ledesma, Consuelo Jalandoni, Ada Mabilangan and Dr. Lourdes Ledesma; sons-in-law Luis Jalandoni and Philip Mabilangan; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, where a funeral Mass is scheduled on May 3 at 9 a.m.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS—When the terms of the agreement are clear and explicit, they are to be understood literally.—When the terms of the agreement are clear and explicit that they do not justify an attempt to read into it any alleged intention of the parties, the terms are to be understood literally just as they appear on the face of the contract. It is only in instances when the language of a contract is ambiguous or obscure that courts ought to apply certain established rules of construction in order to ascertain the supposed intent of the parties. However, these rules will not be used to make a new contract for the parties or to rewrite the old one, even if the contract is inequitable or harsh. They are applied by the court merely to resolve doubts and ambiguities within the framework of the agreement. As such, since the terms and conditions contained in the promissory notes and disclosure statements are clear and unambiguous, the same must be given full force and effect. The expressed intention of the parties as laid down on the loan documents controls. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, First Fil-Sin Lending Corporation v. Padillo, G. R. No. 160533, January 12, 2005) BY R. B. VERA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Tireless teacher to reporters on science beat

By Christine O. Avendaño

I USED to kid my friends that the safest place to live in natural disaster-prone Philippines would be next door to Raymundo Punongbayan, former chief government volcanologist and, most of all, teacher to many reporters in the science beat.

The joke sprang from the premise that surely Punongbayan would choose to live in a place where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes were a rarity, having enough of the stuff in his workplace. (He lived with his family in a rented apartment in Quezon City.)

His death on April 28 in a helicopter crash in Nueva Ecija, while he and his team were on their way to make an aerial inspection of a town in Aurora that was devastated by landslides and floods last December, spoke very much about the way he had lived his life—as a man of action until the end.

Indeed, Punongbayan was on top of a number of natural disasters that struck during his watch.

He joined the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology as a director in 1982 and eventually took over the top post, keeping an eye on every tremor and volcanic eruption until his retirement in 2002.

His fields of specialization covered structural geology, petrology and petrography, photogeology and remote sensing, volcanology, and geologic hazards risk mapping and assessment.

Workaholic

The man was a workaholic, breezing through conferences and field inspections.

Reporters covering the science beat would join him as he and his team hiked for miles on rugged and steep paths to reach the scene of activity.

Much as these trips were tiresome and occasionally risky, they were all educational—because Punongbayan was there to answer questions and to patiently point out facts.

He was a teacher to most of the reporters covering the beat, which was what made covering him interesting.

A geology major, Punongbayan was in fact a professor at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

He was not one to mind if reporters pestered him with questions, crowding his room at his old office on Quezon Avenue. He would carefully explain why it was difficult to predict an earthquake, or what pyroclastic materials were.

His office was a maze of documents and maps—papers that he did not hesitate to dig up and show to reporters to further illustrate why things were the way they were.

Sharing knowledge

And because Punongbayan did not hesitate to answer questions and more from reporters, his team of geologists and volcanologists also took easily to sharing knowledge.

They, too, would take time out to explain to reporters the facts and figures, taking the cue from their boss.

A Phivolcs geologist once taught reporters how to read a map, specifically how to determine how far a location was. He merely plucked a strand of hair from a reporter's head to make the measurements.

Years ago, I shared a helicopter ride with Punongbayan to Clark in Pampanga, where he was to meet with then Defense Secretary Renato de Villa.

They were scheduled to discuss evacuation plans for the residents of lahar-affected towns in Pampanga and Tarlac that were in danger from the continuous rains.

We were late for the conference, so we dashed toward the meeting place and raced up the stairs.

Punongbayan, who was running ahead of me, missed his footing, came close to falling, and righted himself.

I asked him if he was all right.

But he turned, went back down the stairs, and climbed up. And back down again, and back up.

It was then he declared—in that serious tone of his—that the steps were unevenly constructed.

Truly, the man lived his science.

Grateful Aeta set tribal . . .

From page A1

tribute for Punongbayan—who was, at the time of his death, governor of the Philippine National Red Cross—and the other scientists.

Aside from believing in the Lakas Aeta's report on Pinatubo's growing restiveness in 1991, Punongbayan and his Phivolcs team guided them to the safe evacuation areas within the initial 10-kilometer danger zone, Domulot said.

He said the Aeta had sent Sister Emma Fondivilla of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to alert Phivolcs.

On April 3, 1991, the nun walked from the village of Yamot on Pinatubo's upper western flank to the town proper of Botolan, Zambales, where she caught a bus.

Days earlier, Domulot said, the Aeta had observed plumes of steam and earthquakes in the area. Dead fish were found floating in streams and rivers where the water had turned hot.

"Officials in Zambales did not believe what we said we saw, so we asked Sister Emma to go to the right authorities," Domulot said.

The book "Natural Disaster Management among the Negritos of Luzon" confirms the timely reporting by the Aeta and Fondivilla.

According to the book "Fire and Mud" that Punongbayan co-edited, Phivolcs installed a portable seismograph 8 km west of the volcano on April 5, 1991.

It then advised the Lakas Aeta, who were organized under the Catholic Church's tribal missions long before the eruptions, to move to the higher grounds of Barangay Poonbato in Botolan.

Resettlement area

Domulot said that during the succeeding weeks when the danger zone was expanded to 40 km, they moved farther away from Pinatubo, their ancestral home.

He said the Lakas Aeta decided to establish a resettlement area on Barangay Bihawo, also in Botolan.

Punongbayan approved the site—the first resettlement initiated by the Aeta—because of the lesser risks of living there. "The information he gave, as well as his guidance, meant a lot to us," Domulot said.

The Lakas Aeta leader and Fondivilla last saw Punongbayan on June 15, 2001, the 10th anniversary of the Pinatubo eruptions. Punongbayan credited the Aeta with helping Phivolcs monitor the volcanic activity. "If not for them, our active monitoring of Pinatubo would not have started. They gave the alert signal," he told the INQUIRER in 2001.

GMA: Hero's burial for Punongbayan

NOT ONLY a hero's burial but also the Philippines' highest award are being planned for ex-Phivolcs chief and Red Cross director Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan.

"We would like to give him the highest honor that we can within what is traditional for a man of his contributions,"

President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters in a media briefing yesterday in Cebu City, where she was on a two-day visit to, among other things, inspect power plants in Toledo City and meet with officials of Salcon Power Corp. and Korean Electric Power Corp. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

US envoy says he'll miss . . .

From page A1

for a new assignment in July.

Mussomeli, who became the object of criticism for describing parts of Mindanao as "lawless," their borders "porous," and being at "risk of becoming like an Afghanistan situation," was recently named US ambassador to Cambodia.

He told reporters here that he had no regrets saying what he said and did not mind if he had displeased some people.

"I still have a few more months to drive some people crazy," Mussomeli said, laughing.

The US diplomat is set to leave in July.

Mindanao gets attention

Mussomeli said that because of his controversial April 5 interview with SBS-TV Australia, "they are now paying more attention to Mindanao."

He added that even government officials in Mindanao were upset over his warnings about the growing influence of terrorists in the region.

He said he liked the reactions he elicited because they were relayed to him with politeness.

"It gives me the opportunity to explain it better. When people hear just a few words [taken] out of context, they always get confused," Mussomeli said.

He added that what he actually meant was that Mindanao should not be left alone.

"We don't want people to lose attention, we don't want them to be distracted. We worry that Mindanao and Basilan are so important and the problem is so enormous, and your government and my government must continue to pay attention or we run the risk of becoming very, very bad, like we did in Afghanistan after the Americans and the rest of the international community ignored Afghanistan all the way through the '90s. We don't want that to happen here," he said.

Worth it

Mussomeli stressed that what he had said during the interview was "worth it."

"All in all, it was a very good thing—the discussion and debate. People are now paying more attention to Mindanao. That's what you want and that's what the US wants," he said.

Mussomeli also clarified that his assignment to Cambodia had nothing to do with his earlier remarks on Mindanao.

RP addict

He said the job was offered to him in October 2004 by then US Secretary of State Colin Powell, but he opted to stay in the country "because I am addicted to the Philippines."

When asked what he meant by addiction, Mussomeli said that his family had already established roots in the country because he was first assigned here in 1984 and his daughter was born here in 1986.

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Anti-GMA allies split as Abat walks out

From page A1

people, the left, the FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) people and politicians who want to [get back in] power…," Gonzalez told reporters.

Former President Fidel Ramos, who had appointed Abat defense chief in 1997, denied involvement in any plot to unseat Ms Arroyo and branded Abat group's call as a "harebrained idea that is not going to succeed."

AFP draws the line

"As long as he doesn't go beyond what is allowed by law, he can say what he wants. But when he crosses the line, that's when we come in and put a stop to it," said Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service.

While Abat's actions could be viewed as an exercise of his freedom of speech, "we remind him there's a thin line between what's seditious and not," Honrado declared.

Abat unveiled his program on the eve of planned May Day protests by labor militants against the Arroyo administration. Security forces were on high alert.

But disagreements within the alliance soon emerged after some coalition members proposed that the group join today's protest and Abat be at the helm. Abat balked.

"Either you follow me or you remove me as leader," the former commanding general of the Philippine Army said crisply.

Abat said he was objecting to joining the rally because there was no plan of action for such a move.

"Let us think. We won't achieve anything by simply marching," Abat stressed.

Leaders must lead

Citing Sun Tzu, Abat said it was not wise to attack a big force frontally.

"I am a tactical officer. We have to plan," he maintained.

But a woman member insisted that they march, and that Abat must be on the frontlines.

"We are afraid. We have no arms. And then we have no leader. In our experience, the leaders are present during meetings, but when we go to the streets, the leaders disappear," the woman said in an agitated voice.

Why the rush?

"Don't be emotional. Don't rush things," Abat said.

When the next speaker pursued the same request, Abat moved from the presidential table to join a group of retired generals at another table.

When it became clear that the members would join today's workers' rally, Abat walked out.

Earlier, Abat urged the coalition members to "ask the people to join mass actions."

"We have to move," he had said.

It was at that point that some members called for the group's participation in the Labor Day action.

Revolutionary gov't

Surrounded by retired generals and leaders of various groups, Abat told an audience of Arroyo critics: "I propose the establishment of a revolutionary transition government."

He said the transition government would prepare for eventual elections later leading to the formation of a regular government.

He said his group, styling itself as the Coalition for National Salvation, aimed to put the new government in place "within the year or sooner."

Abat was not very clear on how he and his group intended to put such a government in power, except to say that it would be done "through people power."

He said the movement "will require the cooperation and coordination of civil society groups, together with military and police establishments."

In the meantime, the military and police should stay neutral, he said.

Abat said the plan would start with the formation of a revolutionary council—which he volunteered to head—and the council would go around the country to solicit support.

"With enough support we can [organize people power, which would] lead to the ouster" of Arroyo, he said.

'Peaceful and bold'

The revolutionary council will then choose the head of the government while the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police will pick a commander-in-chief, he said.

"People are becoming victims of misgovernance. They are just looking for leadership. And we are providing one."

Abat said: "I am not for a coup d'état. I am not for a military takeover—I abhor it."

Abat's was the latest of a number of groups that over the years had made noises about replacing the Arroyo administration. Except for the Makati uprising by the Magdalo group of junior Army officers, none had directly challenged the administration.

Abat served as defense secretary for about a year until 1998. He supported the overthrow of former President Joseph Estrada and for a time had been on Ms Arroyo's side, serving as president and chief executive officer of the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp.

Other groups

More than 300 members of about 20 organizations, a number of them previously unheard of, filled the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino.

Linda Montarye, a critic of Ms Arroyo, showed up with her Philippine Consultative Assembly group. She left about the same time rumors circulated that a government team had been sent to arrest her.

Bangon Pilipinas of evangelist Eddie Villanueva also sent a representative, as did several Muslim groups and a group calling itself Lakas Pinoy.

Speaking in Tagaytay City last night, Ms Arroyo said: "There is no reason for undue alarm as the authorities, including the DOJ, have the situation under full control."

"Some detractors of the administration have been addicted to airing destabilization threats on occasions like this, but we must keep our calm and fortitude and most of all our focus on the economy, which is the most important issue of national concern today," she said.

"There is no reason for undue alarm as the authorities, including the DOJ, have the situation under full control. We are dealing with nuisances but there are no serious or immediate threats to national security and the stability of the government," said the President.

Gonzalez said the government was not taking anything for granted.

"Everybody can organize a group and no matter how small, it can always cause a threat. No matter how small the threat is, the government must be on guard," he said.

Gonzalez said the justice department would not hesitate to file charges against any coup plotters.

Gonzalez, who went to Cebu to join Ms Arroyo's meeting with officials from a power plant company in Naga town, hurriedly left for Manila upon her instructions.

Why change gov't?

WHY is there a need to change the government?

The anti-government alliance's answer was in a 16-page pamphlet outlining the group's program. It said: "Our country has long been in crisis—crisis in leadership and in the management of the nation's resources."

"Traditional politics has become the major stumbling block in the socio-economic advancement of the country. Social inequities have given rise to insurgencies, criminal and terrorist violence holding hostage our forward development."

The pamphlet said that under a revolutionary government, elections would be suspended until "the infrastructure of governance has been fully reformed."

The revolutionary government will draft a new Constitution.

'Messiahs' warned

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos denied yesterday involvement in any plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo and served notice on coup plotters: He will be on the frontlines fighting them.

"I oppose that idea [coup plot] vehemently," he told reporters. "They have no basis, although they may have the intention. Where is their people power? Where is their military and police power to back them up?"

"Let us not believe these so-called messiahs who think they have the answers to the problems of this country."

Ramos added: "I'll be among the first to oppose them if they try anything violent. I hope that message is clear enough."

On reports that the anti-Arroyo groups were trying to recruit ousted President Joseph Estrada, Ramos said: "With due respect to everybody, let us no longer depend on recycled leaders with recycled knees." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Palace shrugs off resignations

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG yesterday shrugged off the spate of resignations of ranking government officials last week, which some critics have viewed as a sign of eroding confidence in the Arroyo administration.

"Transitions in high public office should be taken as a natural result of dynamic governance and the wishes of the incumbents themselves. What is important is the stability of policy and standards of performance which are being consistently maintained by this administration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

In a span of only three days, three government officials announced their respective plans to quit their posts—Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government; Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus (ret.), ex-officio chair of the National Resources Development Corp., and Fr. Rolando de la Rosa OP, chair of the Commission on Higher Education.

Bunye said there were a lot of individuals interested in serving in government and that this should be taken as proof of trust and confidence in the administration.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said the resignations had lent credence to poll survey findings that "all is not well" within the Arroyo administration. Pimentel said the abrupt decisions by Yorac and Corpus to quit their key posts in the government were a sign that the "administration ship was sinking."

"It is obvious that all is not well within the bowels of the administration. There is a diarrhea of people exiting from its embrace," he said in a phone interview, but stopped short of saying what was ailing the administration.

The exit of both Yorac and De la Rosa had sparked speculation that they were pressured to leave their respective posts—Yorac for going against Malacañang's tolerance of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's growing influence; and De la Rosa for closing down sub-par nursing schools.

On the other hand, Corpus said he wanted to spend more time with his family to make up for the time he spent away from them during his "turbulent past."

"With their departure, the ship of the administration is being abandoned," Pimentel said.

But Bunye thought otherwise. "We should not make too much fuss about the comings and goings of officials as if some were indispensable and some were not," he said. "At the high level of public responsibility, all appointees serve at the pleasure of the President. Those who recently resigned had served the people well and their successors are expected to do the same."

Except for Yorac, who will be replaced by PCGG Commissioner Camilo Sabio, Bunye said the President has not named the replacements of Corpus and De la Rosa.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had accepted the resignations with "regrets."

The President, however, said that Corpus was welcome to come back. She did not elaborate.

The resignations came on the heels of an Ibon Foundation survey showing a dip in Ms Arroyo's performance rating for her failure to address the spiraling prices of basic commodities, low wages and unemployment, among other things.

The survey, which polled 1,211 respondents nationwide from March 3 to 16, also showed that more than half of the populace wanted a change in leadership.

Chavit critic shot

VIGAN CITY—A critic of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was wounded Friday night when armed men shot him in front of his house in Bantay town, Ilocos Sur, police said.

Nestor Seguismundo, 39, former chair of Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa), was shot at about 10 p.m. as he was alighting from his car in Barangay Boquig, police said.

Seguismundo, who was hit in the abdomen, was taken to the Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital.

Reports said two men approached Seguismundo and shot him once before fleeing on a motorcycle.

Police said Sisa had filed at least seven graft cases against Singson before the Ombudsman two years ago. Most of the cases were later dismissed.

Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said that according to reports, Seguismundo, who ran and lost for Ilocos Sur board member last year, had a falling out with one of the opposition leaders and had earned the ire of members of both the local opposition and the administration.

"We already provided police security in the hospital where Seguismundo is confined. I asked the local operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to help us," Subagan said.

Reports said officials of local radio station dzXE recently asked Seguismundo to host a portion on one of the programs of the station. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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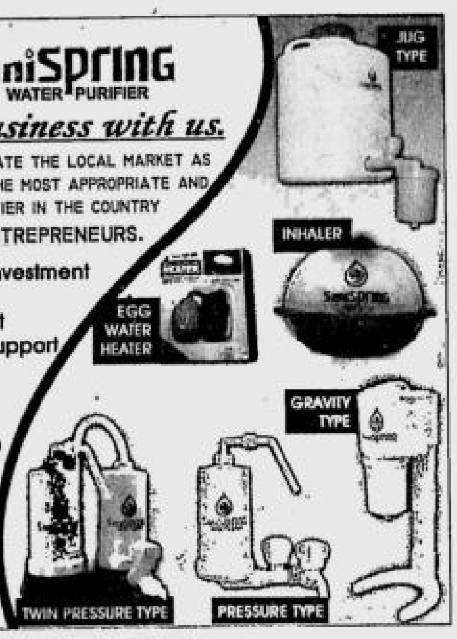

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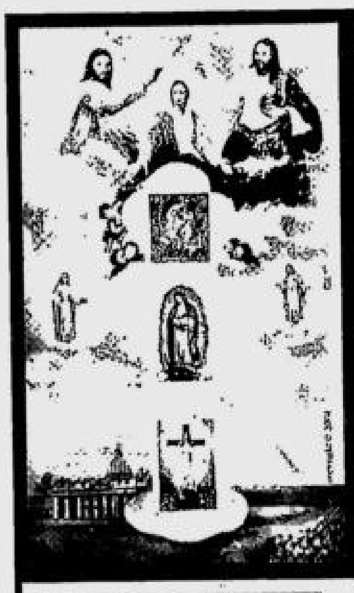

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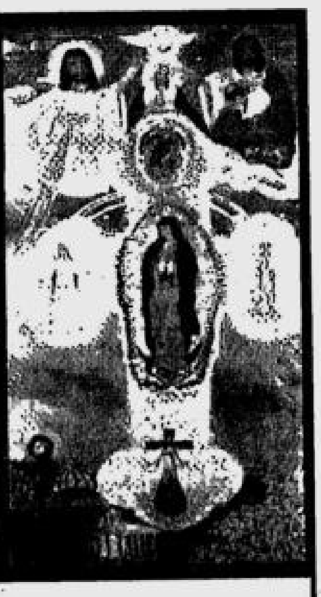

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RP makes it to US piracy blacklist

WASHINGTON—The Philippines, China, India, Indonesia and Pakistan led a blacklist of Asian copyright violators released Friday by the United States, which sought tough action to combat piracy and counterfeiting of US goods.

One country, the Ukraine, remained in the category of worst offenders on copyright infringement as a "priority foreign country," with $75 million in sanctions still in place, the office of the US Trade Representative said.

A total of 14 nations were placed on a "priority watch list," with China added to the list this year.

The others included the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russia, Turkey and Venezuela.

The USTR said that while infringement levels remained "unacceptably high" throughout China, in spite of Beijing's efforts to reduce them, there was some progress in the region in protecting intellectual property rights.

Improvements

It cited the Philippines and Indonesia, which recently passed legislation to combat optical media piracy, and Malaysia and Taiwan, which had begun to take more enforcement actions, as well as India's passage of a new law to improve patent protection.

Acting Trade Representative Peter Allgeier indicated that India might receive benefits for taking some firm measures.

Monitor

"India took a significant step to improve its patent protection regime this year with passage of a new Patent Amendment," Allgeier said. "We will closely monitor implementation of the amendment, and we are considering actions that would acknowledge progress in this area."

The USTR elevated China to the "priority watch list" because of "serious concerns about China's compliance with its obligations" under the World Trade Organization rules and joint commitments.

Economies on the list do not provide an adequate level of protection or enforcement of intellectual property rights, or market access for persons relying on that protection.

The USTR uses a three-step warning list to designate countries according to the degree of abuses.

Downgrades

The priority watch list is the second most serious of the three, below "Priority Foreign Countries," which China was listed on in 1994 but then removed after striking a bilateral agreement with the US government.

This year's "Special 301" report on the adequacy and effectiveness of protection for intellectual property was based on an annual review under the section of US law for which it is named.

Among the 36 trading partners on the "watch-list"—which entails "bilateral attention to address underlying IPR problems"—were South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

South Korea was lowered from the priority watch list in 2004.

This year's report also announced a so-called "out-of-cycle" review for seven countries, including the Philippines and Indonesia. *AFP*

Partners of AIDS victim sought

DAVAO CITY—A former entertainer in Japan, who was diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), died of complications of the disease, health officials in Southern Mindanao said.

The 19-year-old resident of Bansalan in Davao del Sur died in a government hospital in the town on Thursday afternoon.

She was the first AIDS case in the region in recent years, according to health officials.

Dr. Violeta Capacio, Bansalan municipal health officer, said the victim died at around 1 p.m. and was buried in the public cemetery there six hours later, with only about 20 people, mostly family members, in attendance.

Before she became bedridden, the woman worked as a guest relations officer in various videoke bars in Digos City and Matanao town, both in Davao del Sur, it was learned.

Dolores Castillo, director of the Department of Health in Southern Mindanao, said they were trying to identify people who might had intimate encounters with her.

Castillo said that once identified, the persons would have to undergo medical tests to determine if they had contracted the deadly virus.

"But it would be very confidential," she said.

Dr. Gil Mantilla, Davao del Sur assistant provincial health officer, said they suspect that at least 40 persons, including some politicians and police officers in Davao del Sur, had sex with the woman, described by those who knew her as "a Rica Peralejo look-alike."

Mantilla said they were also looking at reports that before the woman got sick, she was living with a policeman.

Mantilla said the victim's condition was first discovered when she reapplied for a job in Japan. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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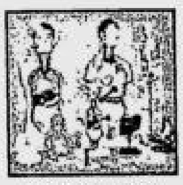
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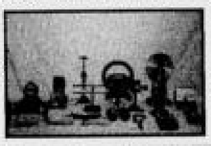
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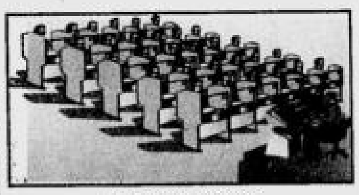
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A PATHOLOGIST and archeologist examines human remains found in a mass grave near Samawa in the Muthanna Province in Iraq April 21. AP

2 years after 'end of war,' violence still cripples Iraq

BAGHDAD—On May 1, 2003, George W. Bush declared the end of major fighting in Iraq. Two years later, security is every Iraqi's dream but the new government faces a huge challenge to make it a reality.

"Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the Battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed," the US president said two years ago from the deck of an aircraft carrier, just weeks after invading Iraq.

According to US figures, 138 American soldiers had died by then.

In the latest outbreak of violence, four US soldiers were killed and two wounded by a roadside bomb near the Syrian border, and four American soldiers were injured when their Humvee crashed during a nighttime operation west of Baghdad, the US military said Saturday.

On Friday, insurgents set off at least 17 bombs in Iraq, killing at least 50 people, including three US soldiers, in a series of attacks aimed at shaking Iraq's newly formed government, which takes office on Tuesday.

An audio tape by one of America's most-wanted insurgents, Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, warned US President George W. Bush there was more bloodshed to come.

After two years that saw the rise of a ruthless insurgency and daily car bombings, ambushes, kidnappings and urban fighting, the US military's death numbers at least 1,575, while the Iraqi tally is too high to report accurately.

According to the independent website Iraq Body Count, between 21,000 and 24,000 civilians have also been killed as a result of fighting since the start of the war.

"We need security in the streets and we need maximum efforts for reconstruction but we haven't seen anything coming from (outgoing prime minister Iyad) Allawi," said Salim Jassem Ali, a Baghdad money changer.

He was speaking as Iraqi leaders agreed on their first democratically elected Cabinet, formed by Shiite leader Ibrahim Jaafari, who is taking over from Allawi's US-appointed administration following the landmark Jan. 30 elections.

Ali voted for Jaafari's list three months ago but he now expects results.

"Jaafari should not just sit on his chair, because he should always remember that he got his chair thanks to us," he said, drinking tea on the capital's Saadoun Street.

Like many other Iraqis, discouraged by the protracted haggling over the Cabinet line-up, Fakher Hadi, who runs a mobile phone shop in Baghdad, remains doubtful about his leaders' commitment to the common good.

"Personal ambition is always a risk. Allawi is the best example. He lost the elections but he simply can't accept that he has to leave," says the 49-year-old Shiite.

"Let them provide me with a job," said Shimeran Jassem, a Baghdadi in his 50s. "If a citizen has a job and is earning a decent living, nobody can fool him anymore by paying him money to carry out a terrorist attack."

With every new step of the democratic transition, Iraqi and US leaders argued that political progress would undermine the insurgency. *AFP, AP*

Mass grave with 1,500 bodies uncovered in Iraq

NEAR SAMAWA, Iraq—Investigators have uncovered a mass grave in southern Iraq containing as many as 1,500 bodies, most of them thought to be Kurds forcibly removed from their homes in the late 1980s.

The site, near the town of Samawa, about 300 km south of Baghdad, consists of 18 shallow trenches dug by earth-moving vehicles into hard limestone rock.

Most of the victims were women and children who were apparently lined up in front of the pits and shot with AK-47 assault rifles, according to a US investigator. Around 110 bodies have been excavated from the site so far, nearly two thirds of them children and teenagers.

They are being forensically examined and evidence gathered will be used to build cases against Saddam Hussein and his top deputies for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The site appears to have been carefully chosen and was well concealed, factors prosecutors believe will convince a court of the systematic nature of the crime.

Many of the victims were wearing clothing that is traditionally Kurdish, and even specific to certain villages. They were wrapped in multiple layers, suggesting they knew they were being moved somewhere, investigators said.

The site was first identified early last year by the US Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, but proper examination did not begin until early this month and finished on April 24.

A reporter was taken to visit the site with Iraq's minister of human rights, an Iraqi judge and international experts.

It is one of around 300 suspected mass graves that have been discovered around Iraq since Saddam was overthrown. Some contain as few as a dozen bodies, while others, including one near the southern city of Basra, contain several thousand. *Reuters*

Lynndie England to plead guilty at Abu Ghraib trial

WASHINGTON—Lynndie England, the US soldier infamously photographed holding a leash attached to the neck of a naked Iraqi inmate at the Abu Ghraib prison, will plead guilty to reduced charges at a court-martial on Monday, US news media reported.

ENGLAND

England's attorney Rick Hernandez told the Washington Post that his client will plead guilty to two counts of conspiracy, four counts of maltreating prisoners and one count of dereliction of duty. In turn Army prosecutors agreed to drop two other charges.

The deal reduces England's maximum sentence to 11 years in prison, Hernandez told the Post.

England, 22, faced up to 16-1/2 years in prison had she been convicted on all original nine charges.

On Monday England will personally plead for a lighter sentence at her court martial in Fort Hood, Texas, the Post reported.

The New York Times, citing two people close to the prosecution as sources, reported that England will face no more than 30 months in prison in the plea agreement.

England is the second soldier to face trial as a result of the scandal. The father of her newborn baby, Specialist Charles Graner, is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence after a court-martial at the Fort Hood military base found him guilty of beating and sexually humiliating prisoners. *AFP*

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Iran says it may resume nuke work as negotations fail

TEHRAN—Iran is unhappy with the progress of nuclear negotiations with the European Union and may resume uranium conversion activities next week in defiance of a key agreement, senior officials warned Saturday.

"It is unlikely that we will resume enrichment, that is to say the activities at Natanz," top negotiator Hassan Rowhani was quoted as saying by the IRNA and Mehr news agencies.

"But some activities at the UCF (Uranium Conversion Facility) at Isfahan could resume next week," Rowhani said, adding that "a definitive decision on whether or not to resume uranium enrichment will be taken next week" by the Islamic republic's leadership.

Uranium conversion involves turning raw uranium into UF6 gas. That can be fed into centrifuges that refine out enriched uranium, which can be directed toward making fuel for atomic reactors or the core of a nuclear weapon.

Uranium conversion is covered by a freeze agreed to by Iran in November 2004 under a deal that kick-started a series of talks with Britain, France and Germany that are aimed at easing international fears the Islamic republic is seeking the bomb.

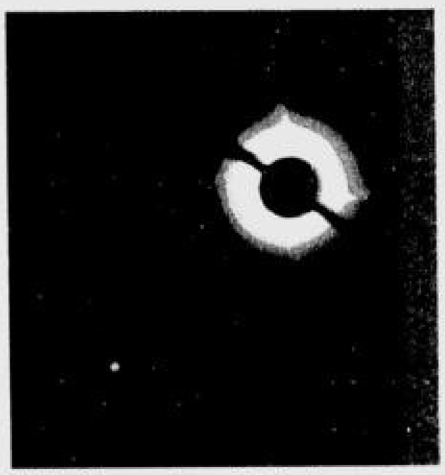
If Iran abandons the EU deal, it risks being hauled before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

The EU, backed by the United States, wants Iran to halt all nuclear fuel cycle activities—fearing enrichment technology would give Iran the capacity to produce a bomb. In return, it is offering a package of trade, security and technology incentives.

But after the latest round of talks with the EU in London on Friday, top national security spokesperson Ali Agha Mohammadi said Iran was "unhappy."

"The negotiations were good on content and there were principled agreements, and the Europeans were closer than ever to our point of view," said Mohammadi, a spokesperson for Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

"But concerning the application and the timetable, Iran is unhappy with the results," he added. *AFP*



IN THIS image released by the European Southern Observatory, the first planet outside of our solar system or very low-mass brown dwarf, lower left, orbits AB Pictoris, a young star located about 150 light years from Earth. The giant planet is approximately five times the mass of Jupiter. AP

Photo taken of planet outside solar system

LOS ANGELES—New images taken of an object five times the mass of Jupiter confirm that it is a giant planet closely orbiting a distant star, an international team of astronomers reported.

The team of European and American astronomers said this is the first time a planet outside of our solar system has been directly observed—a claim other scientists have also made.

The team first spotted the object last year as a faint reddish speck of light circling a dim brown dwarf—or failed star—225 light-years away from Earth near the constellation Hydra. At the time, scientists guessed the faint light was a planet, but said further observation was needed.

The discovery touched off a debate over whether the object was actually a planet or a background star. Since the mid-1990s, scientists have discovered more than 130 of these so-called extrasolar planets by indirect means, but observing them directly has proved difficult.

Refined images taken earlier this year by the Very Large Telescope in northern Chile show two separate objects bound by gravity moving together according to Gael Chauvin, an astronomer at the European Southern Observatory, who led the team.

"Our new images show convincingly that this really is a planet, the first planet that has ever been imaged outside of our solar system," Chauvin said in a statement.

Added Benjamin Zuckerman, an astronomer at the University of California, Los Angeles, who was part of the team: "I'm more than 99 percent confident."

Chauvin's team estimated the mass of the object, called 2M1207b, by measuring its brightness. They found that it was five times the mass of Jupiter and orbited a brown dwarf, known as 2M1207A, at a distance nearly twice as far as Neptune is from the sun.

Their observations will be published in a future issue of Astronomy and Astrophysics, the scientists said.

Lynne Hillenbrand, an assistant professor of astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, said the findings were intriguing, but cautioned against calling the object a planet.

"The claim of an object being a planet is subject to one's definition of planet and there are different camps on what that definition is," Hillenbrand said.

In recent months, different groups of astronomers have published competing claims about directly observing extrasolar planets. *AP*

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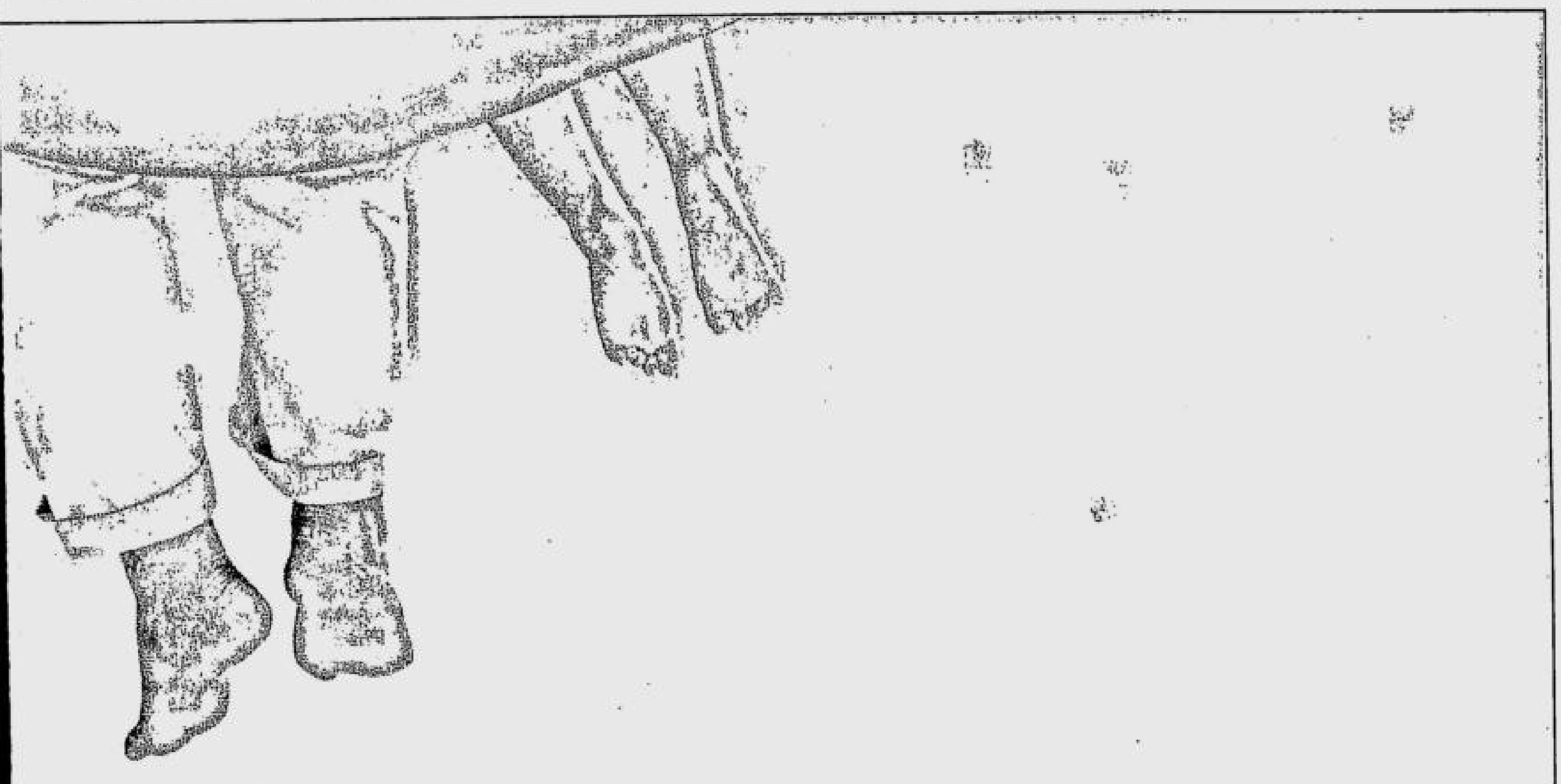

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EDITORIALS

Subduing the earth

THE LATE Pope John Paul II's role in confronting communism overshadowed his own penetrating critique of "the other system," capitalism. Labor Day is an opportune time to revisit his thinking on what used to be called "the social question"—the meaning of work, in the age of the machine.

Very early in his time at the Holy See, he brought new cogency and great power to Church thinking on labor, primarily through the groundbreaking encyclical, "*Laborem exercens*." His point of departure was not the worker alone, but the worker **and his family**.

"In a way, work is a condition for making it possible to found a family, since the family requires the means of subsistence which man normally gains through work." And again: "[T]he family is simultaneously a **community made possible by work** and the first **school of work** within the home, for every person."

In the long view, of course, Pope John Paul II's thinking is not original, but a recovery from the original teachings, from the Church's earliest days. But the great ideological struggles, which broke out in the 19th century and reached their violent culmination in the 20th, have added new layers of meaning. He writes: "[W]e must first of all recall a principle that has always been taught by the Church: **the principle of the priority of labor over capital.**"

(Although the religious right in the United States readily embraced his advocacy of the "culture of life," the spiritual leaders of what eventually turned out to be George W. Bush's "ownership society" virtually ignored his much more measured approach to capitalism.)

Further, labor's priority and the re-imagining of the family as a community of work led John Paul II to a critical definition: "[I]n every case, a just wage is the concrete means of **verifying the justice** of the whole socioeconomic system and, in any case, of checking that it is functioning justly."

And then a radical conclusion: "Just remuneration for the work of an adult who is responsible for a family means remuneration which will suffice for establishing and properly maintaining a family and for providing security for its future. Such remuneration can be given either through what is called a **family wage**—that is, a single salary given to the head of the family for his work, sufficient for the needs of the family, without the other spouse having to take up gainful employment outside the home—or through **other social measures** such as family allowances or grants to mothers devoting themselves exclusively to their families."

Those words were written in 1981, after the Pope's first visit to the Philippines. They remain touchstones for today's labor advocates.

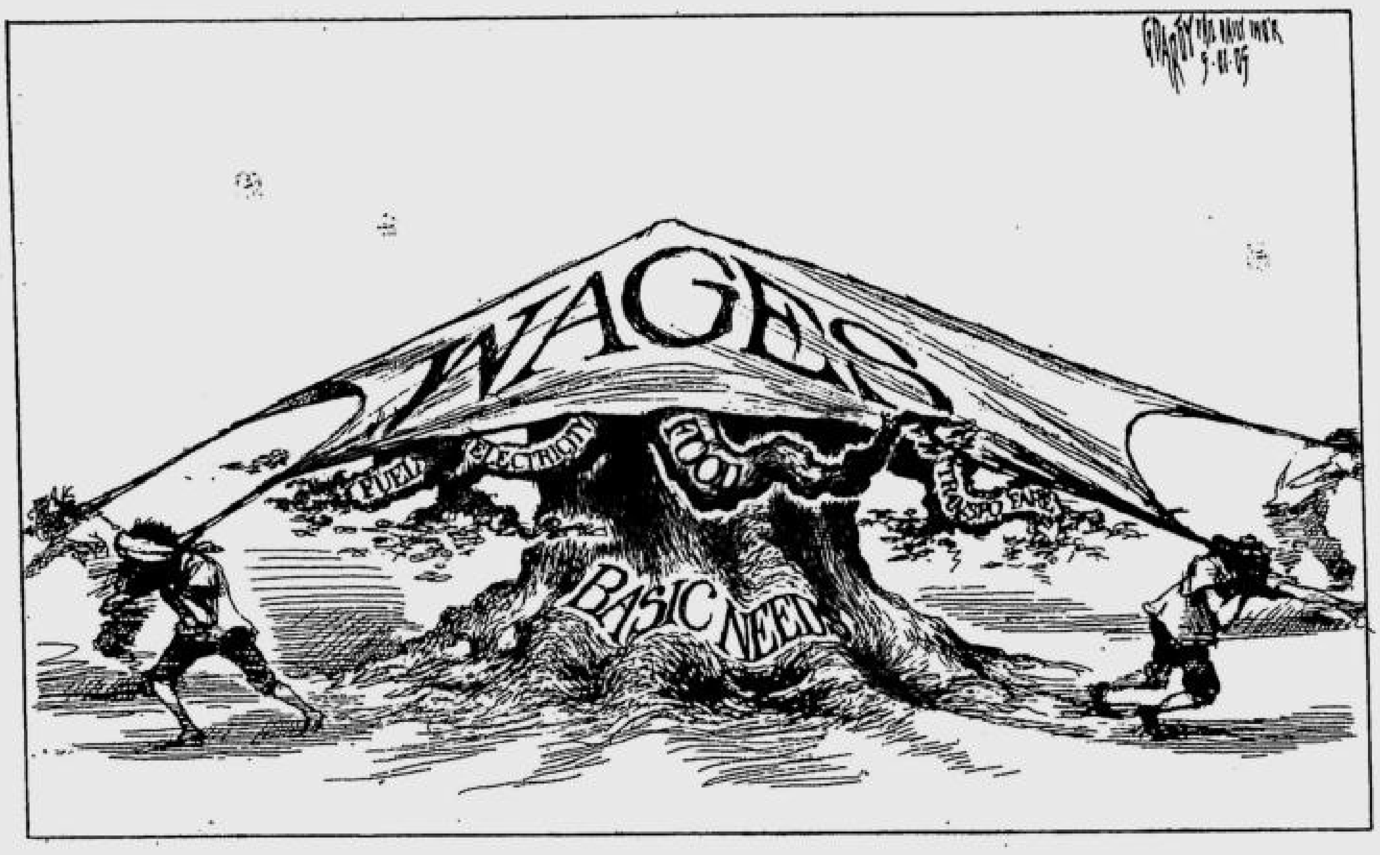
Watching the heavens

THE EDITORS' note profiling the INQUIRER's first Filipino of the Year, in 1992, began by describing the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in terms the ancient Romans would have understood: "The heavens fell." We cited Raymundo Punongbayan, then the director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, for keeping an anxious nation calm throughout the post-eruption turmoil, mainly through his use of a very Roman sense of reason and order.

Punongbayan died last Thursday, together with four Phivolcs scientists and four PAF servicemen, when the Air Force helicopter they were riding crashed into Mount Namat in Nueva Ecija. In one of those accidents of fate that grant an unexpected symmetry to our time on earth, Punongbayan died like a hero in an ancient myth: He fell from the heavens.

His death was all the more tragic because he perished together with other upstanding Filipinos, including Phivolcs' chief geologist, who had turned down lucrative offers abroad to serve in government, and an Air Force pilot, who agreed to captain the mission even though he was officially on leave. All nine died after completing an "aerial assessment" of landslide danger zones in Dingalan, Aurora.

Punongbayan had retired from Phivolcs in 2003 and, like many other Filipinos, busied himself with volunteer work after retirement. His came in the form of service with the Philippine National Red Cross, where he once again preached the gospel of disaster preparedness. His death and those of his companions leave all of us diminished.



Social justice and the laborer

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS being the first of May, I gladly extend my warm greetings and thanks to the working men and women of this country in whose honor Labor Day is dedicated. They are supposed to be the equal partner of capital in the development of the national economy, but to me they are more equal than the persons who contribute to the effort only their mostly inherited money, for which they earn the greater dividends. Labor's share consists of sweat and toil and sometimes even life, not to mention the wisdom of the better intellectually endowed among its number. For all these valuable and indispensable assets, the working man or woman is only regarded as the industrial partner with the correspondingly smaller share in the profits of the common enterprise.

Recognition of the value of the working person in the free society was embodied in the social justice policy advocated by President Manuel L. Quezon and enshrined in the Constitution of 1935. It has since been reiterated in all our subsequent charters and is now emphasized in a separate Article XIII of the present Constitution. Regrettably, much of this has been largely only lip service to the laboring class, which continues to be tolerated, if not actually disdained and dismissed by the government, or worse, exploited by false leaders promoting the communist ideology or their own personal gain.

I had the privilege of writing the decision in Association of Small Landowners v. the Secretary of Agrarian Reform, 175 SCRA 343, where the Supreme Court unanimously sustained the constitutionality of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law that sought to break up the landed estates and distribute them among the landless tenants who had for many decades been exploited by their usually heartless and absent *hacenderos*. In my concluding paragraph, I naively envisioned for the impoverished farmers an idyllic future as follows:

"In the decision we reach today, all major legal obstacles to the comprehensive agrarian reform program are removed, to clear the way for the freedom of the farmer. We may now glimpse the day he will be released not only from want but also from the exploitation and disdain of the past and from his own feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. At last, his servitude will be ended forever. At last, the farm on which he toils will be *his* farm. It will be his portion of Mother Earth that will give not only the staff of life but also the joy of living. And where once it only bred for him only deep despair, now can he see in it the fruition of hopes for a more fulfilling future. Now at last can he banish from his small plot of earth his insecurities and dark resentments and 'rebuild in it the music and the dream.'"

In writing this optimistic prediction, I am afraid I was wildly dreaming. The music and the dream I had joyfully anticipated for the farmers have not materialized. Sixteen years after I wrote that decision, many landed estates remain landed and are still in the hands of resourceful absentee landlords who have escaped the operation of the CARL. Some of these agricultural lands have been converted into golf courses for the pleasure of tourists and at much financial benefit for the owners. The farmers who used to till them have been deprived of their livelihood, but the golfers' justification is that the unemployment problems have not worsened because they are now hiring caddies. That stupid comment reminds me of the French nobility expecting the deluge.

My favorite story in discussing social justice in my classes is about the ditchdigger who was asked why he was digging ditches. His answer was "I dig the ditch to give me strength to earn the money to buy the food to give me strength to dig the ditch."

To him and countless other Filipinos, life is but an unending cycle of drudgery and toil, a ceaseless struggle for survival, for the elemental right to just exist instead of truly living. Want is a constant companion. Oppression is always close by. As for those interests intended to enhance the joy of living—these are total strangers. One cannot enjoy the sunset when he must worry about the oil to light the lamp when the darkness closes in.

That is why President Ramon Magsaysay said in a well-remembered statement that a person denied privileges in life should be given more privileges in law. In Ondoy v. Ignacio, 97 SCRA 611, the Supreme Court said that "social justice (for the laborer) is not equality but protection." And in the famous case of Cuevo v. Barredo, 65 Phil. 290, the Supreme Court awarded damages to the heirs of a laborer who had drowned in the Pasig River while retrieving a log for the employing company. The Court reversed the decision of the lower courts holding that the man's death was not compensable because it was caused by a mere accident.

These and other similar cases affirm the classic definition of Justice Jose P. Laurel in Calalang v. Williams, 70 Phil. 726, that social justice is "the humanization of laws and the equalization of the social and economic forces by the State so that justice in its rational and objectively secular conception may at least be approximated." To the ordinary citizen, it simply means that we must be fair to the forgotten man.

In a little while. . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a worried wife who called her friend, saying she suspected her husband was with some other woman because it was already late, and he wasn't home yet. Her friend's reply was: "Will you please stop thinking negative! Maybe he just met an accident or, maybe, he had a heart attack, okay?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 14, 15-21), Jesus promised that He will give us an advocate helper, who will be with us always. The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete or the Comforter is the one who guides and enlightens us. May we too become helpers and comforters to one another. Are you a source of comfort and strength to others, or are you a source of discomfort and hurts?

* * *

It is so consoling and comforting to know that the Lord is with us always. "In a little while you will see me, but you still see me, because I live, and you will live in me." In His farewell discourse, Jesus took the trouble of repeating over and over His promise that He would not abandon us or leave us as orphans. Yes, we have the blessed assurance that He will be with us always. That's clear. But the question is: are we with Him, always?

* * *

Someone once said that if religion has done nothing to your temper, it has not done much to your soul. There are people who profess that they love God and yet go on hurting other people. There are people who claim to be members of this and that religion, devotees of this and that—but the bottom line of true love of God is keeping His commandments. The basic moral rule to follow is: Do good and avoid evil, which is completed in Jesus' command to love God and one's neighbor.

* * *

What can we say about leaders who claim to be public servants and yet continue to cheat, steal and plunder? Such leaders are called—fakes, cheaters and liars. And what do we call people who suck blood money from the poorest of the poor? Suckers! And what do we call rich and influential people who continue to make milking cows out of our people? Milkers!

* * *

"In a little while" is a beautiful phrase that is loaded with hope. Suffering is not forever. Bad people are not forever. Suckers and milkers are not forever. In a little while our country will move on toward greater heights. In a little while it will be proven again that it pays to be good, and that crime does not pay.

* * *

We join all laborers in their quest for just wages and commensurate compensation. How come there are people who hardly labor and yet rake in so much money and wealth? How come corrupt people seem to get away with graft in our country? I don't know. What I do know though is that there is no real sense of fulfillment and dignity in a person who uses others. What I also know is that stolen money will be used in the end for the condemnation of him/her who acquired it. Careful, careful! Don't forget that someday you and I will face our Creator.

* * *

It's May once again, the beautiful month of May, dedicated to Mama Mary. I remember how, as kids, we would spend our summer days in Bani, Pangasinan, climbing trees, swimming in the river, going to the barrios for spiders, or just frolicking in the summer sun. But the afternoons found us gathering flowers and going to the church to offer our love and gratitude to the Blessed Mother. It was a beautiful practice, the memory of which to this day I keep in my mind and in my heart. May we not forget Mama Mary, our Mother.

* * *

Lest you forget, May 8 is Mother's Day. How many mothers are forgotten or are taken for granted by their children? Worse, how many mothers are hurt by their children?

One time an elderly woman came to me, crying and telling me that, perhaps, it was better for her to die already so that she would not be a burden to her children anymore. She went on to say that her children hardly called or visited her, and if ever they did, all she heard were their complaints, their miseries and their never-ending squabbles and quarrels among themselves.

The greatest pain for any mother is to know that her children will not be all right and will not have peace with each other after she is gone. A mother does not need much to be happy. All she needs is love and assurance from her children, her "little ones." Have you called, have you visited, have you hugged your mother lately? Better do it now, before it's too late.

* * *

My mother is now 84 years old, still strong to make a five-hour trip to Pangasinan, still working for her children after all these years. I hold in my heart many lessons I learned from her. But what I remember most as a child was her constant admonition to endure and be patient because everything is passing, and that things will become better—in a little while.

* * *

Inviting you to join the Walk with God to Manaoag this coming Saturday, May 7, 2005. We will start the three-hour walk at 6 a.m. from the Urdaneta Church, and we will have the Mass at 11 a.m. in the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to be patient and to be hopeful because things will be better, in a little while. Amen.

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Notes from the 'Land of Lincoln'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

WOODRIDGE, Illinois—Sometime in 1939, the presidential library system of the United States was inaugurated when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt donated all his personal and presidential papers to the federal government. These documents now form part of the FDR Library, the first of its kind, located at Hyde Park, New York. Since then, all American presidents have established their own libraries and museums to house the papers, photographs, recordings and other memorabilia associated with their years in office. The Harry Truman Library and Museum can be found in Independence, Missouri, Dwight Eisenhower's in Abilene, Kansas and Jimmy Carter's in Atlanta, Georgia, just to name a few. Last year, the Clinton Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, was inaugurated with the man Clinton defeated for the presidency, former President George H.W. Bush in attendance. Although privately funded, the libraries in the system are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, a federal agency.

Two weeks ago, President George W. Bush formally dedicated the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, part of the Lincoln Library complex in Springfield, Illinois, the state capital. Unfortunately, the program was overshadowed by the selection of the new pontiff in Rome on the same day. In his remarks, President Bush declared that "the mission of this library is essential to our country, because to understand the life and the sacrifice of Abraham Lincoln is to understand the meaning and promise of America."

* * *

Whenever the occasion presented itself, I took the opportunity to visit some of the more readily accessible presidential libraries/museums in the United States. In the past, my wife and I spent time at the Nixon Museum in Yorba Linda, California, the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia and the Ronald Reagan Library/Museum in Simi Valley, California. They were all very fruitful and educational trips, providing us with a better understanding of some of the men who have led this nation during times of conflict and controversy.

A few days back, together with our daughter Carmela, we traveled to Springfield, some three and a half hours from Chicago by Amtrak. Like many state capitals, Springfield is not a very large city; neither is it a busy commercial center. It is best known as the home of the 16th US president, Abraham Lincoln, considered by many historians as the greatest American chief executive.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum brings together the largest collection of documentary material on the life of the Great Emancipator. What makes the Museum different from others in the United States are its high-tech exhibits, holographic and special effects theater and a reproduction of the White House as it looked in 1861. Here one can view an original handwritten copy of his famous Gettysburg Address delivered at the dedication of the National Soldiers' Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during the American Civil War. (I recall that in grade school, we were required to memorize this three-minute speech, actually only 10 sentences, as part of the class work on US History. Today, I wonder if our schoolchildren are called upon to learn by heart some of the more memorable lines from speeches of our political leaders. Perhaps, Manuel Quezon's "My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to country begins," would be a good starting point.)

As president, Lincoln was subjected to some of the most vicious and personal attacks by his opponents particularly in the media. Nothing in Philippine political mudslinging comes close to the kind of abuse that was heaped upon him. He was called all sorts of names; a baboon, a provincial hick, a beast, the Illinois ape. But he refused to react to the journalistic vilification and considered it as part of the job.

Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, Good Friday, while watching a play "Our American Cousin" at the Ford Theater in Washington, D.C. His killer, John Wilkes Booth, chose the scene with the biggest laugh line to shoot Lincoln from behind with a derringer. He died the following morning. His funeral procession was the most prolonged and elaborate in American history, covering 12 cities in 15 days from Washington, D.C. to Springfield where he lies buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

On a wall in the Lincoln Museum are the words of President Franklin Roosevelt: "To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future, a Nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people to learn from the past so that they can gain in judgment in creating their own future."

* * *

Do we believe in our past or in the future? If we do, we could use some special facility in our country, open and accessible to the general public, particularly to our students, where they can learn more about and better appreciate those who occupied the high office of the Philippine presidency. It might be too expensive to set up separate presidential libraries and museums but, perhaps, the government can move toward housing all the available documents and records of our past leaders in one complex so that future generations may benefit from their wisdom and experience, and even their follies, and thus "gain in judgment in creating their own future."

Searching for heaven

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PARALLELS to current events are inevitable while watching "Kingdom of Heaven." It is set in Jerusalem, which still figures in international headlines, mainly for the conflicts that continually beset it, particularly the suicide bombings that have become the latest expression of political unrest in this volatile land. It is about foreign occupation of an ancient land, arising from a war and invasion launched for ostensibly religious and moral motives but degenerating into a struggle for wealth and power. And finally, it is about the clash of three major religions, whose believers have been called the "People of the Book," sharing common roots but troublesome rifts.

But "Kingdom of Heaven" is also about religious and political idealism, the search for a literal Eden where honor and chivalry rule, where the will of God is expressed in a benevolent and enlightened state, and where people of different faiths could coexist in mutual respect and cooperation.

Scriptwriter William Monahan says the movie is based on historical reality: the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem which existed in the interim between the Second and Third Crusades. As the film's hero Balian (Orlando Bloom), who flees France to avoid execution for murder, reaches Jerusalem, he finds a kingdom caught in an uneasy truce with the Saracens, the Muslim army, and beset with intrigue and unrest from within. King Baldwin IV is a young and wily statesman who holds genuine respect and admiration for Saladin (Syrian film star Ghassan Massoud), the legendary Islamic military strategist and ruler, with whom he shares a commitment to peace, but he is dying of leprosy. To make matters worse, the king's sister and heir Princess Sibylla (Eva Green) is married to Guy de Lusignan, a member of the papal para-military group the Knights Templar, who sees warfare as the only way to gain honor and power for himself.

* * *

INTO this setting of uneasy peace and simmering conflict steps Balian, who has traveled to the Holy Land to seek forgiveness and redemption for himself and his late wife, who killed herself after the death of their infant child. Balian is the heir of Godfrey (Liam Neeson), a noble man who had earned renown and wealth in Jerusalem for his heroics, who himself had returned to France to make amends to the son he had fathered and abandoned.

But this is what the Crusades were all about: Not just to wrest the Holy Land from the Saracens who had overrun much of the Middle East, Northern Africa and even Southern Europe, but also to give European adventurers a chance to begin anew, to give full rein to their romantic notions of chivalry, and earn themselves a place in God's favor.

"God wills it!" was Pope Urban II's cry in 1095 when he launched the First Crusade to reclaim the holy city of Jerusalem. This is also the cry that issues frequently from the throats of the Knights Templar and their supporters, who are spoiling for a fight, despite the fact that the Christians have controlled Jerusalem for nearly a century, and in defiance of the reality that Saladin commands a huge army of skilled fighters who are themselves agitating to retake the city that holds equally weighty meaning for believers of Islam.

* * *

AS the movie's storyline moves inevitably toward the climactic battle scene, one character rues: "The Crusades began out of faith, but they have since become about wealth and power."

This may well be what American and Allied leaders might be muttering these days. The invasion of Iraq was billed as a struggle for democracy, to free Iraq from the grip of Saddam Hussein and to save the world from weapons of mass destruction. But what is the occupation of Iraq all about today? A huge investment opportunity for the likes of the Halliburton group, a clarion call for hawks in the Bush administration, and a huge drain on the American budget.

Indeed, those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. When the Crusaders re-took Jerusalem from Muslim control, they massacred every Muslim they encountered within the city gates. This, even as under Saracen rule, people of the three faiths were free to practice their religion, and shrines and churches sacred to Judaism, Christianity and Islam were preserved and protected.

Is similar respect and tolerance practiced in Jerusalem and in the rest of the Holy Land today under Jewish authority? If there was indeed democracy, peace and equal opportunity among all the people there, would there be reason for suicide bombers to persist in their martyrdom?

One of the best reasons to watch "Kingdom of Heaven" is the fair and balanced presentation of the Saracens, defying Western media stereotypes about Muslims as bloodthirsty and backward.

* * *

"KINGDOM of Heaven" is of the same genre as Ridley Scott's previous works: historical epics told from the point-of-view of an individual seeking personal redemption amid an epochal struggle.

As he did in "Gladiator" and in "Black Hawk Down," Scott depicts the futility of war from the grunt's eye-view, sympathizing with the ordinary trooper while reserving full scorn for the politicians and generals who gamble with these young men's lives for the most selfish and vainglorious reasons.

Unfortunately, Scott is a poet with a camera, and his staging of battle scenes is fraught with heat and excitement, so that despite all that bloodshed and mayhem, one is swept up in the sheer beauty and energy of the scenes.

A word about Orlando Bloom. He won our hearts with his luminous beauty as Legolas in "Lord of the Rings," but in "Kingdom of Heaven" he is a much grubbier and earthier Balian. Let's just say he's an elf brought to lusty life in this movie.

The shift to nursing

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SINCE the start of the year, I've been speaking at various schools in the country. I think I have gained a clear idea of the concerns and aspirations of young Filipinos in these uncertain times. In the exchange that follows every talk, I ask how many in the audience are seriously planning to go abroad after completing their studies. The raised hands representing prospective immigrants typically outnumbered the ones that would stick it out at home.

I recall that the only time in our nation's history when migration became a desperate option for many of our people was in the early '80s. The New Society experiment of Marcos had by then been confirmed to be a failure. The credibility of the regime was in tatters. The economy went into a tailspin after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Yet my impression then was that the exodus was basically a middle-class phenomenon. People were moving out mainly because they feared chaos.

Today's immigrants are different. They seem more desperate about being able to find a future at home. It is not political chaos that frightens them so much as stagnation and poverty. Many have reached a point of indifference. They think that the country's leaders are all alike, cut from the same cloth of opportunism and corruption. No one inspires them anymore. They are voting with their feet, refusing to participate in any political exercise that promises to install a "new" leadership. They refuse to waste their youth in a society that offers them nothing on which to anchor their hopes.

Many of these young Filipinos are not exactly without job prospects at home. A number of them already have jobs, but they do not see their present situation as offering them any opportunity for meaningful personal or professional growth. Their eyes are firmly set on a destination abroad, preferably the United States. And right now, the only passport available is a nursing degree.

Speaking at the recent graduation ceremonies of the Naga College Foundation, one of the earliest private colleges in Bicol for the training of teachers, I couldn't help noting that the biggest group, a good one-third of the year's graduating class, was that of the nurses. I was told that many of them were "second-coursers," meaning they were already holders of other degrees, like medicine, accounting, engineering or education.

The shift to nursing has taken the Philippines by a storm. It is the most dramatic change in the country's education system since the introduction of computer science courses. It has spawned far more new schools in the last four years than any other tertiary-level course. It has colonized the academic programs of traditional liberal arts colleges that face extinction if they failed to respond to the demand. Some medical schools are closing down because they cannot get enough students; their faculties and facilities are being swallowed by nursing programs.

The phenomenal demand for nursing personnel abroad, as exemplified by the opening of a special US visa window for qualified nurses, has led to the proliferation of nursing schools unsupported by training facilities. Existing policies of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) require such schools to be accredited with a medical facility that has at least 100 hospital beds. They also require the engagement of a minimum of five faculty members with nursing degrees.

Where education has become a big industry, the rush to meet the market is sure to sweep aside the formal requirements for offering a popular course. Compliance is negotiated as school-owners turn to politicians for help in dealing with CHED officials. The recent resignation of Fr. Rolando de la Rosa as chair of the CHED is possibly an outcome of his refusal to accede to pressure after he ordered 23 nursing schools to refrain from offering the nursing curriculum until they complied with the minimum requirements. The weapon the politicians used against him was the power of Congress to cut the Commission's budget.

The opening for Filipino nurses in the United States is of a short-term nature, but the demand for a nursing degree may rise even further in the next five to 10 years. The impetus that drives it is no longer the actual demand for nurses abroad but the overwhelming wish of many Filipinos to leave the country.

Yet it is interesting that, instead of viewing this exodus with alarm, the Philippine government seems to rejoice in it. Every representation we make with governments in the developed countries inevitably revolves around the business of exporting more of our people. A recent news item reports a public official as positively looking forward to the possibility that in 2005, the number of Filipinos leaving the country to work abroad on a yearly basis will hit the one million mark. Given existing trends, that number may well be a modest estimate.

In general, our people thrive well abroad. They work hard, are loyal and dependable, and they value their jobs. The companies and institutions they serve abroad sometimes wonder how any country can cavalierly dispense with the services of such a gifted people.

I am sure there are many deep personal reasons behind the current exodus of our people. But I think of it as societal entropy. A term from thermodynamics, entropy refers to "the amount of energy unavailable for useful work in a system undergoing change." Applied to a society, it is a measure of disorder in the system. In plain language, it simply suggests that the present system in the country is such that it can no longer absorb talent. That's one way of looking at our problem.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Pope Benedict XVI and the feminists

COMMENTARY

Maria Socorro G. Naguit

WITH POPE Benedict XVI as the new Vicar of Christ, what could the world's feminist Catholics be thinking?

The INQUIRER's Rina Jimenez-David, a valued friend and esteemed colleague, for one, has intimated her personal pain as a Catholic wanting to live her faith but unable to reconcile certain Church teachings with her feminist convictions.

In her column titled "Belief, faith and the Pope" (PDI, 4/5/05), David rued that "[John Paul II] seemed determined...to dismiss any form of dissent, imposing a doctrinal discipline that could be harsh, especially when it came to questions on the role of women in the Church and in Church history."

With Pope Benedict XVI at the helm, one can imagine how embattled radical feminists must feel.

By "harsh doctrinal discipline," David was presumably alluding to the Vatican's excommunication in August 2002 of seven women who participated in an unofficial ordination ceremony aboard a boat on Danube River on June 29, 2002. The women were "ordained" by Romulo Braschi, an Argentine who calls himself an archbishop, but whom the Vatican does not recognize.

It was none other than Pope Benedict XVI, then better known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who headed the Catholic Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the time. The Congregation set a July 22, 2001 deadline for the women to renounce their claims. When the women "did not give any indication of amendment or repentance for the most serious offense they had committed," the Vatican declared that the women had "incurred excommunication." The women appealed the decision.

One must ask why any Catholic would publicly and so flagrantly flout the teachings of the Church and then ask not to be excommunicated. One may surmise that the seven women sought ordination as priests outside the Church partly or purely for propaganda purposes. By provoking excommunication—which one has to assume they knew they were courting—they would thus have succeeded in portraying the Church to the world as a tyrannical institution.

Strangely enough, the seven women appealed the Vatican's decision.

Common sense dictates that anyone who flagrantly disobeys the rules and regulations of an organization to which he or she belongs must be prepared for expulsion. To have one's self "ordained" outside of the Church is like saying that one does not belong to it. In a sense, the seven "women-priests" excommunicated themselves; the Church merely made it official.

The matter bears comparison with going to hell. A well-taught Catholic believes that if God finds any delight in sending anyone there, the Incarnation would never have happened. God would not have assumed a human form in the person of the historical Christ, endured being spat upon, addressed with contempt, flogged, crowned with thorns, weighed down by a cross and nailed to it like a common criminal. Anyone who values being a Catholic is presumed to know why He chose to go through all that. It was not so that He could send people to hell afterward. Those who go to hell are those who, out of intellectual pride and sheer stubbornness, reject God and His gift of forgiveness and salvation.

Reason counsels that we seek to understand why the Church teaches that Christ Himself reserved the priesthood for men. In doing so, we may discover that God has in turn reserved for women roles and vocations of surpassing value, dignity and beauty. In his apostolic letter, "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women (Mulieris Dignitatem)," Pope John Paul II, rather than relegating women to a position of inferiority to men, reaffirmed the exalted place of women in human existence, and beyond that, in Salvation itself.

Mary Rousseau, professor emeritus from Marquette University, in her "Pope John Paul II's Teaching on Women" notes, "....for the Holy Father, *sexuality is not just central to what we are as persons.* [Italics supplied] It is also central to the sacramental life of the Church.... [The concepts of] [m]ale initiative and female receptivity are especially important in the Eucharist, in which the priest reenacts the marital love of Christ the Bridegroom for his Bride, the Church. The sacramental symbolism of bride and bridegroom in the Eucharist is no small matter, for our sacraments are not just symbols. They are symbols that cause what they signify, cause it precisely by signifying it. Thus the accuracy of the symbols is all-important...."

God is a God of order. Even human authors know the importance of consistency in the use of symbols. How could anyone think that God would conceive of something as defining and significant as gender without intending it to be just so? How could we think that the Supreme Author, in deciding to come to earth as the Christ, true man and true God, and in calling 12 men to be His first priests, had chosen these particulars for no special reason? Having women as priests simply renders the use of the aforementioned symbols meaningless, as though the Holy Spirit had whispered insignificant improvisations into the ears of the prophets and authors of the Gospel.

Should we presume to know more than the Pope, even one who so evidently had the piety, spiritual vision, depth of intellect, extraordinary moral courage, the training, education, and experience required by so demanding an office? Both John Paul II and his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, fit that bill.

In his book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," John Paul II wrote: "Man cannot be forced to accept the truth. He can be drawn toward the truth only by his own nature, that is, by his own freedom, which commits him to search sincerely for truth and, when he finds it, to adhere to it both in his convictions and his behavior."

Maria Socorro G. Naguit, used to be an associate editor of Parents magazine, managing editor of the Philippines Free Press, and associate editor of the defunct Daily Globe. She is now a freelance writer and editor. She is one of the five women writers whose mini-biographies of Ramon Magsaysay awardees from 1958-67 appear in Great Men and Women of Asia (Anvil Publishing, 2004).

THEY SAID

Undeserving

"I am surprised I'm back in the headlines. I don't deserve to be in the headlines anymore."

—Former President Fidel Ramos, distancing himself from a position paper of his former top security aides calling for the establishment of a civilian-military junta

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Did Pacific Plans shortchange clients?

PACIFIC Plans Inc. (PPI), a pre-need company owned by the Yuchengcos, is having trouble delivering on its promise to pay for the tuition of college students whose parents had bought its education plans.

Months earlier, College Assurance Plan was in the spotlight when the checks it had issued to cover the tuition of its beneficiaries began bouncing, prompting plan holders to storm its offices.

Four other pre-need companies are said to be in dire straits.

Their problems stem from the open-ended education plans that they sold to parents, mostly belonging to the middle class, in the 1980s and early 1990s. The open-ended plans stipulate that the pre-need companies will shoulder the tuition of the beneficiaries regardless of the amount.

All went well when increases in tuition were limited to 10 percent a year. But things went awry for some pre-need firms after the government lifted the cap on increases.

Faced with losses, the Yuchengcos transferred 400,000 fixed-value plans from PPI to a newly formed company called Lifetime Plans, leaving PPI with 34,000 open-ended plans. Then PPI filed for rehabilitation and promised plan holders a refund plus a 7-percent interest.

PPI plan holders feel cheated. They have formed a coalition to pressure PPI into meeting its obligations.

PACIFIC PLANS INC
IOUs

ILLUSTRATION BY GILBERT DAROY
PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Pre-need firm should pay up

By Nanette J. Lati

I was greatly dismayed when I heard and read the news about the financial problems of Pacific Plans Inc. and its scheduled partial payment for 2005. Those who will not get the partial payment will have to wait until 2010. Pacific Plans sent letters informing us about the new arrangement.

I have two four-year college non-exclusive plans, fully paid in April 1999, which my children could use starting 2006 and 2007, respectively.

As a parent, I would like to give the best to my children, especially their education. That's why I strove hard and religiously paid premiums of the education plans.

The salary of an ordinary employee, which lags the fast-rising cost of basic commodities, can not meet the other necessities in life. Where am I supposed to get the money for the college education of my children?

Many news have come out the past days and plan holders have been caught unawares of the developments in Pacific Plans. Again, with short notice, Pacific Plans changed its name to Lifetime Plans.

Government should look into this serious matter, including the case of College Assurance Plan, which concerns many Filipino parents who are saving even their single peso just to get an education plan for their children.

The owners and major stockholders of Pacific Plans or Lifetime Plans have many businesses nationwide, so there is no reason for them not to pay the existing plan holders.

I hope that our congressmen and senators will address my concerns and those of other plan holders because I don't believe that Pacific Plans is bankrupt.

(Lati, a loans account officer at the Land Bank of the Philippines-Consumer Banking Unit, is a Pacific Plans plan holder.)

Owners could be charged with estafa

By Francis Escudero

I could understand where the plan holders are coming from. I'm one of College Assurance Plan's (CAP) first scholars.

So I urge the government to take action and, at the very least, consider and defend the rights of our poor countrymen.

I also urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to study the possible filing of large-scale estafa charges against the owners, directors and officials of CAP and Pacific Plans Inc., who, after promising to pay for the education of the children of our poor countrymen, assume a turncoat stance. They tell clients they could no longer do so despite having used the money entrusted to them.

The basic elements of estafa are deceit and gain. Insofar as CAP and Pacific Plans are concerned, we would want the DOJ to investigate if there was sufficient gain and deceit on the part of the officers of the pre-need firms against the plan holders. Mismanagement is one kind of defense (these companies have been using). That is why we want to investigate this matter further.

The new subsidiary set up [by the Yuchengcos] is a scheme to bleed Pacific Plans dry. Immediately after setting up the subsidiary, Pacific Plans filed for rehabilitation. I would consider that estafa, and since there are 30,000 plan holders more or less, it would be large-scale estafa, which is non-bailable.

Basically, the pre-need companies asked for money from plan holders, with the promise that when their children take up college, the companies will pay for their tuition.

The basic problems are the following:

First, they knew tuition was already deregulated. Despite that knowledge, they continued to offer plans that were open-ended. They got a big share of the market compared with other companies that did not offer an open-ended plan, or started to shift to a plan with a cap. It was an attractive offer. I am sure they conducted actuarial studies and they should have known that this will happen.

Second, in the case of CAP, it seems that owners have bled the company dry by infusing the cash into investments that failed. Now, CAP is left with an empty bag with portfolios that are, in fact, losing money. They are not even willing to dispose of the assets because they will be selling them at a big loss.

In the case of Pacific Plans, we lack evidence as far as the company's investments are concerned. Pacific officials filed a rehabilitation plan two to three months before enrollment. They knew this at least last year. And yet to be able to skirt their responsibility, they filed this rehabilitation case before the courts.

It is stated in the contract that one cannot change the terms without the consent of both parties. In this case, they were unilaterally changing the provisions of the contract they entered into.

(Escudero, a lawyer, is the minority leader in the House of Representatives.)

We continue to honor our obligations

By Ernesto Garcia

As emotions subside, people would view Pacific Plan's actions since 1990 as one continuing commitment to honor its obligations.

So let us go back to 1990, the year all open-ended education plans were in effect doomed by a radical change in government policy: from capping tuition increases to no more than 10 percent to allowing unlimited increases.

That stroke of deregulation was the single biggest cause of the problems PPI and other similarly situated pre-need companies now face. The degree of their present problem is a function of how management reacted then.

PPI reacted prudently when it stopped selling the open-ended plans in 1992, two years after partial deregulation and two years before the 1994 full deregulation. The handwriting was on the wall and it took heed. Still, PPI had roughly 90,000 open-ended plans sold from 1986 to 1992.

PPI paid all the tuition claims, regardless of amount, in the past 14 years although its contract explicitly freed PPI from paying the extra costs. Early this month, it went to court to seek suspension of payments and approval for a rehabilitation plan.

When PPI did this, it was accused of a lot of things. But did it really renege on its obligations? Don't the Yuchengcos and their other companies have the moral obligation to pay? Did PPI cheat its plan holders when it spun off its fixed-value plans? Was PPI unfair to its plan holders? Very simply, why doesn't it just pay?

To put things in perspective, everybody must realize companies with open-ended plans have a problem and it was beyond their control.

Deregulation was a ticking time bomb. Companies with the most number of open-ended plans will suffer the most. No company could match, much less surpass, with limited income the unlimited yearly increases the schools were charging.

PPI does not have the most number of these plans but it is the bravest to face its problem squarely and to provide a solution. It is a controversial solution to those affected, but PPI will be vindicated sooner than later that it did right.

What did PPI do right? Let us count the ways.

1 PPI stopped selling these plans in 1992. That was one move that proved critical because it was able to contain the injury. The more of these plans a company has, the worse off it is.

2 PPI has not exercised its right under Section XV of its contract. It could have taken legal cover from this but so far it has not.

3 PPI put in P1.5 billion to pay the runaway tuition. This is one reason it paid in full all tuition claims in the past 14 years. It has so far sent to school 56,000 scholars and at most 18,000 are not yet availing themselves of the benefits—a modest number by industry standards mainly because of No. 1.

4 PPI sold instead fixed-value plans, where benefits are defined. PPI sold more than 400,000 of these. But it eventually had to put these in a separate company because the 34,000 open-ended plans continued to be voracious eaters of corporate funds. It separated the two types of plans through a spin-off, a perfectly legal action that is done all over the world. Without this move, the whole body of fixed-value and open-ended plans would have suffered. So why not take steps to keep the 400,000 healthy?

5 Even before this, PPI wrote many schools to buy thousands of scholarships for its beneficiaries and pay in advance the whole four-or five-year courses. Not one agreed to the offer of a 10-percent annual increase. PPI pleaded. It failed.

6 PPI bought back plans but the secondary market, which it has no control of, has brought prices to unreasonable levels.

7 After the spin-off, PPI was left with the 34,000 plans. It had looked for ways to limit liability on the open-ended plans by offering to swap them with fixed-value plans. But time was not on its side. Enrollment was creeping in fast. It had more than P300 million in cash left and $52-million worth of government-guaranteed bonds that would mature in 2010. Of the 34,000 plans, 16,000 are due for enrollment; the rest, the majority, would be due to file in the coming years and obviously would be disadvantaged if assets are liquidated now. Something must be left for them.

8 So PPI went to court early this month. While it sought for suspension of payment, it asked the court to allow it to use its remaining P341 million in cash to support the tuition needs of the 16,000. PPI knew it had to help pay the tuition because it is enrollment time.

9 PPI proposed to return all the premium payments plus seven percent net compounded interest to the 18,000 non-availing plan holders. For the 16,000 who are already availing themselves of the benefits, PPI offered tuition support, which is part of the discounted balance of remaining "availments," plus seven percent net compounded interest that they are entitled to. All these depend on the court approving its rehabilitation plan.

10 If some opponents succeed in blocking the rehabilitation, PPI would likely be forced to Square One with all the problems and no solution, or into liquidation and sell its $52-million worth of bonds before maturity. If sold now, these bonds would fetch P550 million less than if they are redeemed by 2010. This loss, all plan holders must absorb.

PPI has done more as an exercise of its obligation, legal and moral, to its plan holders. When the time bomb ticks its last, PPI will be remembered as the company that offered to return the plan holders' money plus more while it still could, and took a lot of beating for a misunderstood but correct decision.

(Garcia is the president of Pacific Plans Inc.)

FAST FACTS

PRE-NEED plans are contracts which provide for the rendering of services or payment of money to plan holders or their beneficiaries at the time of actual need.

The most common pre-need plans are education, retirement and life or memorial plans.

Newlyweds and couples below 40 years old are the main market for education plans while the middle-aged are the main market for pension and life funds.

Education plans provide for tuition and other expenses.

Pension plans entitle plan holders to receive benefits upon retirement or maturity of the plan.

Life or memorial plans, on the other hand, commit to pay for the burial, cremation and/or memorial services of plan holders.

History

The pre-need business in the country started in 1966 with the establishment of Pacific Memorial Plan Inc. (now Pacific Plans Inc.). Pacific Memorial offered memorial service that was agreed upon in a contract regardless of actual cost of the service at the time it is to be used.

The Professional Pension Plan Inc. (now the Professional Financial Plans) offered the first pre-need pension plan in the country in 1976. Four years later, the College Assurance Plan (CAP) introduced the traditional education plan.

Since the first pre-need product entered the Philippine market some 40 years ago, the pre-need industry has grown into a billion-peso business, generating more than P28 billion in sales from January to September last year alone.

Pension plans accounted for the bulk of the sales amounting to P14.18 billion, followed by education plans, P9.2 billion and life plans, P2.11 billion.

Pension plans also led pre-need sales in terms of number of plans sold at 180,848, up from 172,783 for the same period in the 2003. For education plans, the number fell 6.66 percent to 92,086 while life plans slipped 18.24 percent to 62,697.

As of June 2003, the pre-need industry's trust fund had reached P60.5 billion, which was about 9 percent of the total banking system's trust and other fiduciary accounts.

The industry in the words of then Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chair Lilia Bautista had become a partner in "nation-building" affecting millions of Filipino lives: more than 6 million plan holders, over 20,000 employees and 180,000 sales agents and 1,200 branches across the country.

Closure

The industry's fast growth, however, has not been synonymous with stability.

Since it assumed supervision over the industry in 1978, the SEC has registered a total of 91 pre-need companies. About half of these have either closed permanently or temporarily ceased operations by 2002.

This year, there are only 41 licensed dealers and 7 licensed general agents of pre-need plans.

PDI Research

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

Out-of-school youth cross learning bridge

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Midsayap, North Cotabato

LOOKING back, Jacklyn Rose Kangkang said she had the enthusiasm of a child wishing to become a nurse, physician, lawyer, teacher or somebody.

Her juvenile passion had ended pathetically. Her father died a few months after she finished elementary—as class valedictorian—in a school in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Now 15-years-old, Jacklyn is picking up the pieces of a dream blown apart by the demise of a loved one.

Almost like Jacklyn's case, 20-year-old Ronnie Takna failed to finish high school. He dropped out to look for work in many places, even as far as Manila. But how can a son of poor parents, who knows practically nothing, find a decent job in a competitive world?

He found himself again in Midsayap after a fruitless search.

"Finishing at least high school is indeed very important. Even small stores require helpers to be high school graduates," Takna said.

For the better

Life turned for the better for Kangkang and Takna.

"After the death of my father, I stopped schooling. I thought I could no longer go back to school," Kangkang said.

The two dropouts are among 600 learners who will benefit from the Acceleration and Equivalency (A and E) Program jointly implemented by the Department of Education, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) and the Save the Children Foundation, which is funded by the US Assistance for International Development (USAID).

Aside from Midsayap, the program is being implemented in Datu Piang town in Maguindanao; Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur; and Talipas, Sulu. It is part of the Assistance for Comprehensive Educational Development in Mindanao or Ascend-Mindanao.

Joe Agarano, the program director, said their efforts were about giving hope to the children and youth, especially in poor and conflict-stricken communities in Mindanao.

"It aims to increase the opportunities of children and youth in accessing basic and quality education. It utilizes the A and E program as a mechanism in providing access to education to both elementary and high school dropouts," Agarano said.

Preparations

The program is designed under the DepEd's Alternative Learning Systems, which would enable out-of-school youths to embrace formal education anew. The target students undergo a six-month intensive review so that they will have better chances of passing the A and E exams.

Those who make it will receive a certificate equivalent to a diploma of an elementary or high school graduate.

Agarano said the program was like a hanging bridge that "the children and youths could cross and be on the other side of the river where [there are] opportunities to be in school, skilled or employed."

"But the learners must remain calm, focused and steady in passing through the hanging bridge. The wooden path must be equally strong and sturdy to ensure learners don't fall," he pointed out.

The parents provide the wooden paths, Agarano said, noting that their determination and commitment play a crucial role in the success of learners.

Parental Guidance

He said the children, confronted by the fact that they live in areas of conflict and in poor communities, must have the constant encouragement and support of their parents.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
A

"Like the hanging bridge, it must have very strong ropes that can hold the wooden path from one side of the river to the other. These ropes are the different organizations, along with the LGU (local government unit) officials from the municipal level to the barangay," Agarano added.

If anything, the establishment of the bridge is seen as a timely effort from the concerned agencies amid the rising number of out-of-school youths and school dropouts.

In Upper Glad 2 in Midsayap, the barangay council has observed a yearly increase in the number of out-of-school youths.

Pelagia Salazar, head teacher of the Barangay Tumbras Elementary School, said very few pupils in Grade 1 actually went on to complete their elementary education.

Agarano said the situation could be a far cry from those in Datu Piang and Talipao, both towns belonging to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindnao and sharing a history of armed conflict.

Drop-out rates

During the DepEd Mindanao Educators' Congress in March last year, the education department reported that the average drop-out rate of elementary pupils in Mindanao was 12.4 percent, almost double the national average of 7 percent for school year 2000-01. The ARMM posted the highest dropout rate at 23.8 percent.

Survival is also lowest in Mindanao, with only 36.17 percent of Grade 1 entrants remaining in school to reach fourth year high school within the prescribed 10-year period.

Disturbed by the report, Salazar said efforts were now being undertaken to reduce the drop-out incidence.

Fatima Ilon-Adza of the DepEd in Central Mindanao said her office aimed to reach the "virtually unreachable."

"The department is committed to reach even the farthest out-of-school child in the farthest barangays to regain access to education [through the]… Alternative Learning Systems…," Ilon-Adza said.

Datu Piang Mayor Datu Samer Uy echoed the same commitment. The town's 20 villages have at least 150 out-of-school youths.

Conflict areas

"These children need to be educated… if we want peace and development in the conflict areas, we have to start giving the appropriate education to our children," Uy said.

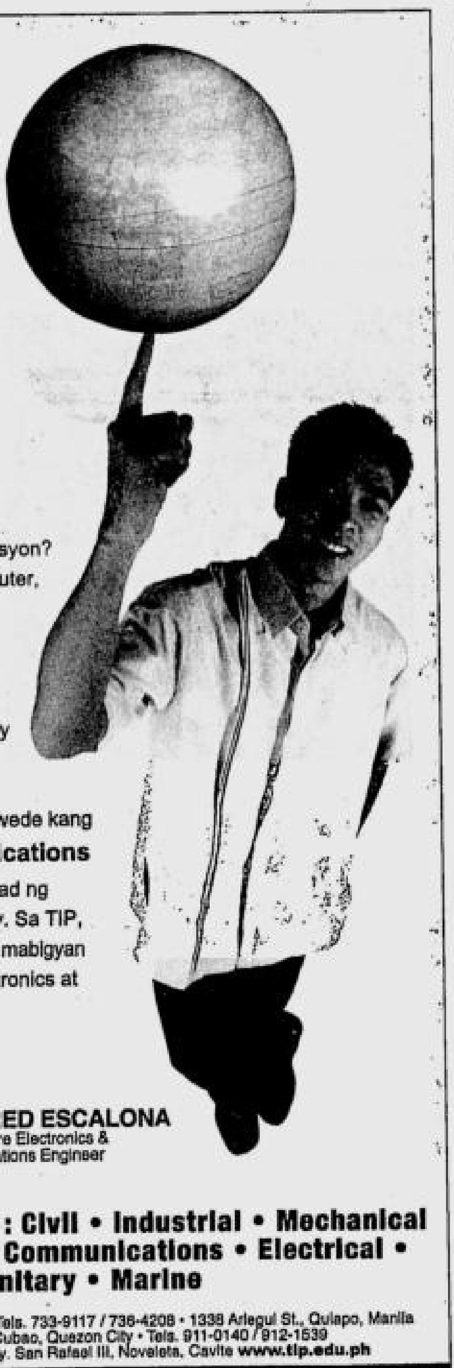
For Midsayap Mayor Romeo Arana, the program is a way of facilitating "that every child acquires and enjoys the right to education as the key to enjoying the right to develop as a person."

"The reason we have conflicts is because we failed to understand each other. And how can we better understand each other if we lack education? Education is very necessary in fostering understanding among different peoples," Araña said.

For another learner, Evita Valmonte, being a dropout does mean the end for them.

"We also dream and we know that our dreams are coming true… we can make them come true)," she said in Filipino.

KAYA MO BANG PAANDARIN ANG MUNDO?



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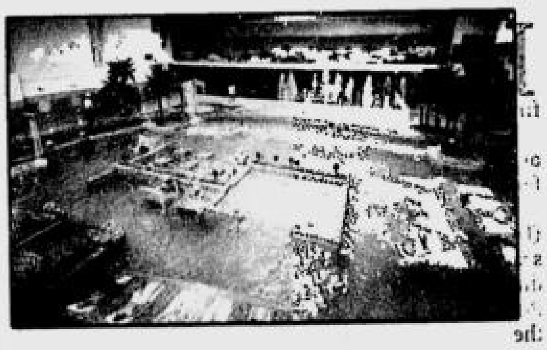

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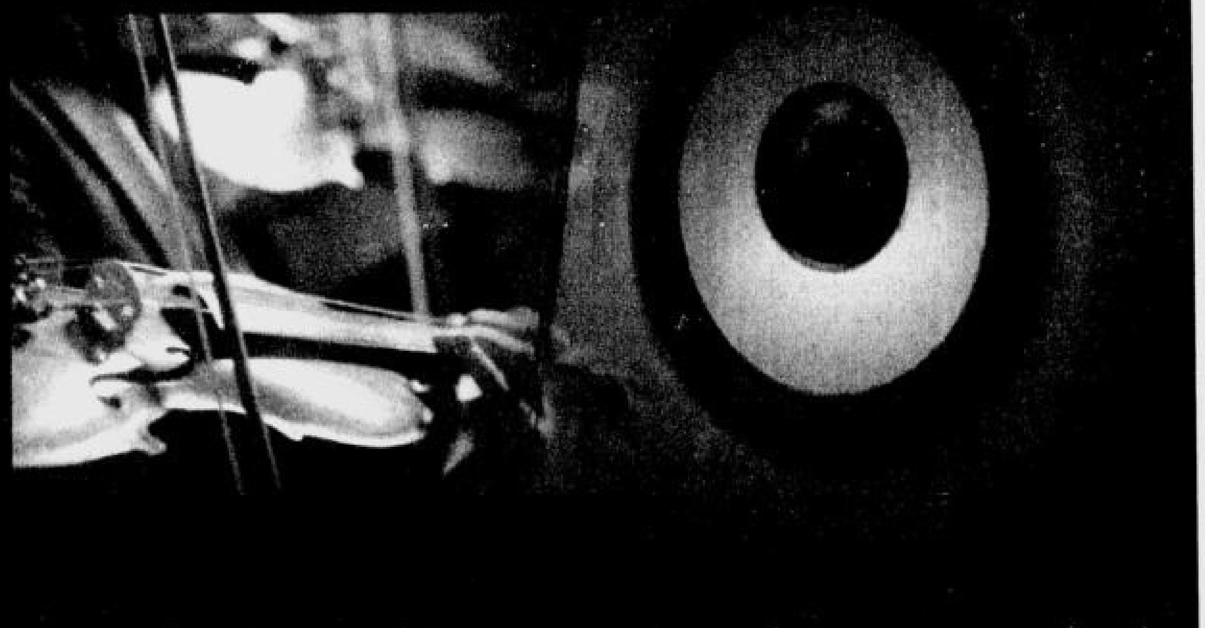

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Mayor's backers burn American flag

COTABATO CITY—Angry supporters of Mayor Muslimen Sema set afire a replica of an American flag and enlarged photos of American embassy officials in reaction to charges from an official of the United States Aid for International Development (USAid) that the mayor has links with terror groups.

"This is a very serious accusation," Sema, who was demanding a "public apology" from USAid Senior Officer Michael Yates, said during the rally attended by about 2,000 people at the plaza here.

Sema said Yates sent him a personal letter, which said that the construction of a USAid-funded diversion road project here was being suspended because of his alleged links with international financiers of terror groups.

Sema is the secretary general of the Moro National Liberation front (MNLF).

"The accusation is very serious, because I believe that if you support a criminal (in his activities) you are as good as a criminal, too," Sema said as clenched-fist supporters chanted *"Allahu Akbar"* (God is great).

Among the enlarged photos set on fire were those of Yates and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said he was surprised to learn about Yates' allegations against Sema.

Dureza said Yates' letter was based largely on a supposed intelligence report.

Sema insisted that the USAid official identify the source of the intelligence report.

"From where are these reports coming from? They should also identify who these international financiers of terrorists are," he said.

Maj. Gen. Raul Relano, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said he was also surprised by Yates' claim.

Sema considered the letter as damaging and an affront to his integrity.

Dureza said Yates should prove his allegation against Sema because it was very serious.

"In fairness to Mayor Mus Sema, there is a need to tell all the information. Is it gossip only or (if) there is specific evidence (or) either validated information. He (Sema) is our partner in peace and development in Central Mindanao region," Dureza said.

Sema said he already filed a diplomatic protest against Yates.

The Philippine government is negotiating a peace agreement with a rival group of the MNLF, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front whose leaders are demanding a separate Muslim republic in Mindanao. *Jeffrey Maitem, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WRAPPED UP
A US MILITARY expert teaches first aid treatment to Filipino soldiers during medical evacuation training at the RP-US Balance Piston exercises held recently in Basilan.
REUTERS

NPA rebels attack Globe cellular site

BULUSAN, Sorsogon—A Globe telecommunications cell site in Barangay Purog, Bulusan in Sorsogon was torched by 10 unidentified armed men believed to be members of the New Peoples Army on Wednesday.

Supt. Joel Regondola, head of the investigation division of the provincial police, said the suspects barged into the compound at around 6:30 Wednesday morning.

Armed with long firearms, he said the suspects poured gasoline into the cell cabin and lighted it.

Regondola said there was a guard at the compound but he was unarmed.

Police said the cell cabin was destroyed but there was still no estimate as to how much it was worth.

The suspects were now being hunted by policemen and Army soldiers.

Investigators said they were unaware of what could be the motive for the attack on the cell site, but communist guerrillas had, in the past, demanded revolutionary taxes from cellular phone companies.

Several cell sites have been attacked in the past following the refusal of the telecommunications companies to pay revolutionary taxes, which the military said was plain extortion.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal neither confirmed nor denied that the NPA rebels were responsible for the attack on the Globe cell site in Bulusan.

"I just heard the incident over the radio. But I don't have any report yet from the Red fighters operating in the area," he said in a mobile phone interview.

The communist guerilla rebels usually destroy properties of business establishments that refuse to pay revolutionary taxes.

The government and rebels tried in the past to negotiate a peace agreement, but clashes and killings led to the talks' collapse. *Bobby Labalan and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SC orders arrest of Baguio mayor for contempt over pay parking case

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court ordered the arrest of Mayor Braulio Yaranon for contempt, after establishing that he had "misled" the court in a case involving a pay parking firm.

The court fined Yaranon P10,000 and ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest and detain him until he complied with the tribunal's decision to allow the Jadewell Parking Corp. to continue operating here pending a decision on the firm's numerous cases.

The SC resolution was issued on April 20 but was received here only on Friday.

Yaranon shut down Jadewell's Baguio office here over a business licensing violation, and barred the firm's parking attendants from collecting fees from motorists.

He said the firm had no authority to administer traffic rules in the summer capital.

On Feb. 9, the high court directed Yaranon to reopen the streets to Jadewell parking attendants, while they deliberated on four cases, which the firm had leveled against Yaranon, his predecessor, Bernardo Vergara, and two sets of city councilors.

But in an eight-page resolution last week, the court's third division said Yaranon had violated its Feb. 9 directive. It found the mayor liable for manifesting that he had complied with the tribunal's order.

Yaranon told the court on Feb. 21 that "the streets and premises occupied and operated by Jadewell are, and have always been, open for the use and enjoyment of the public, and will be kept so indefinitely."

City government employees sealed the entrance to a Jadewell-run pay parking center at the Burnham Park. The government also closed Lake Drive, the route to Burnham Lake that Jadewell administers, to vehicular traffic.

The city government converted it into a bicycle lane for residents and tourists.

Yaranon did not issue any statement, but a crew from the city's demolition squad on Friday night tore down the iron pipes blocking the entrance to the Jadewell office.

City officials also reopened Lake Drive to traffic, said Norma Tan, Jadewell general manager.

Lucita Abjelina-Soriano, the division clerk of court, cited in the court's resolution the March investigation conducted by Judge Iluminada Cabato-Cortes, the city's executive judge.

Cortes noted that the firm's parking center at the park remained sealed while sheet railings were erected to close Lake Drive on March 21. She also reported that Lake Drive was subsequently occupied by *"tiangge* (bargain)" stalls on April 4.

"The foregoing factual accounts show not only Mayor Yaranon's continued defiance of the writ but also the falsehood he foisted on this court... [which] constitutes contempt," the court said.

"Yaranon's report to the court constituted fraud on the court [that is] punishable as contempt... His defiance incontrovertibly proves his intention to tie the hands of justice and prevent it from taking its due course," it said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sacked customs exec seeks GMA statement

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Former Cebu Customs Collector Billy Bibit has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to clarify if she sanctioned his relief from the Port of Cebu.

He told the INQUIRER that his query was contained in a letter he sent to Ms Arroyo at Malacañang sa Sugbo where the President was expected to spend the night.

President Arroyo was here yesterday for a series of activities and to stand as sponsor to the wedding of Ivy Durano, sister of Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, and Raymund Meca.

Bibit said he wanted to see the President for two reasons—to thank her for allowing him to serve at the Bureau of Customs and to confirm if she sanctioned his removal from office as what Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina had wanted to appear.

He, however, would not say what he would do next in case the President did not know about his ouster from the Bureau of Customs, saying he did not want to telegraph his punches.

In a statement, Bibit said that there were other non-eligible officials in the bureau but still, they remained in their posts.

"If this is the decision of the President, then I humbly submit to Her Excellency's call. But if not, that will be another story. Let's see", Bibit said in the statement.

Lina earlier said Bibit was removed from the post because he lacked eligibility as required by the Civil Service Commission.

"I am just doing my job and I am the commissioner in the Bureau of Customs. But he can still go to the President if he wants," Lina said in an interview.

Lina said he did not assure Bibit of anything, insisting that the only reason he was removed was because of his lack of eligibility as prescribed by the civil service law.

"Nobody is permanent nowadays", Lina said.

He added he would look into the claim of Bibit that some customs officials remained in their posts even if they lacked eligibility.

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800 Amerasians to benefit from computer center

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—More than 800 out-of-school Amerasians will soon find themselves working in the information technology field after the Microsoft Philippines and Learn.ph Foundation inaugurated an IT learning center in this city on Friday.

Several Amerasians have started receiving basic computer literacy training and comprehensive schooling at the IT learning site inside the People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance (Preda) Foundation center here.

"While technology skills are very important for today's workforce, millions of people around the world still face the challenge of how and where to obtain these skills," said Antonio Javier, managing director of Microsoft Philippines.

Potential to succeed

He said the learning center would help Amerasians realize their potential to successfully compete in today's marketplace.

Mae Rivera-Moreno, marketing communications manager of Microsoft Philippines, said the center was funded by a grant from Microsoft's Unlimited Potential Program, an outreach effort to improve learning and reduce the global digital divide in technology skills.

"Amerasians have a lot of potentials but these have not been tapped. We are finding better ways to help them get employment and good careers in the future," Moreno said.

Unlimited Potential is a global initiative focused on providing technology skills to poor individuals. Recipients of the grants are public centers where people can gain IT skills and training to help themselves and their communities.

Learning site

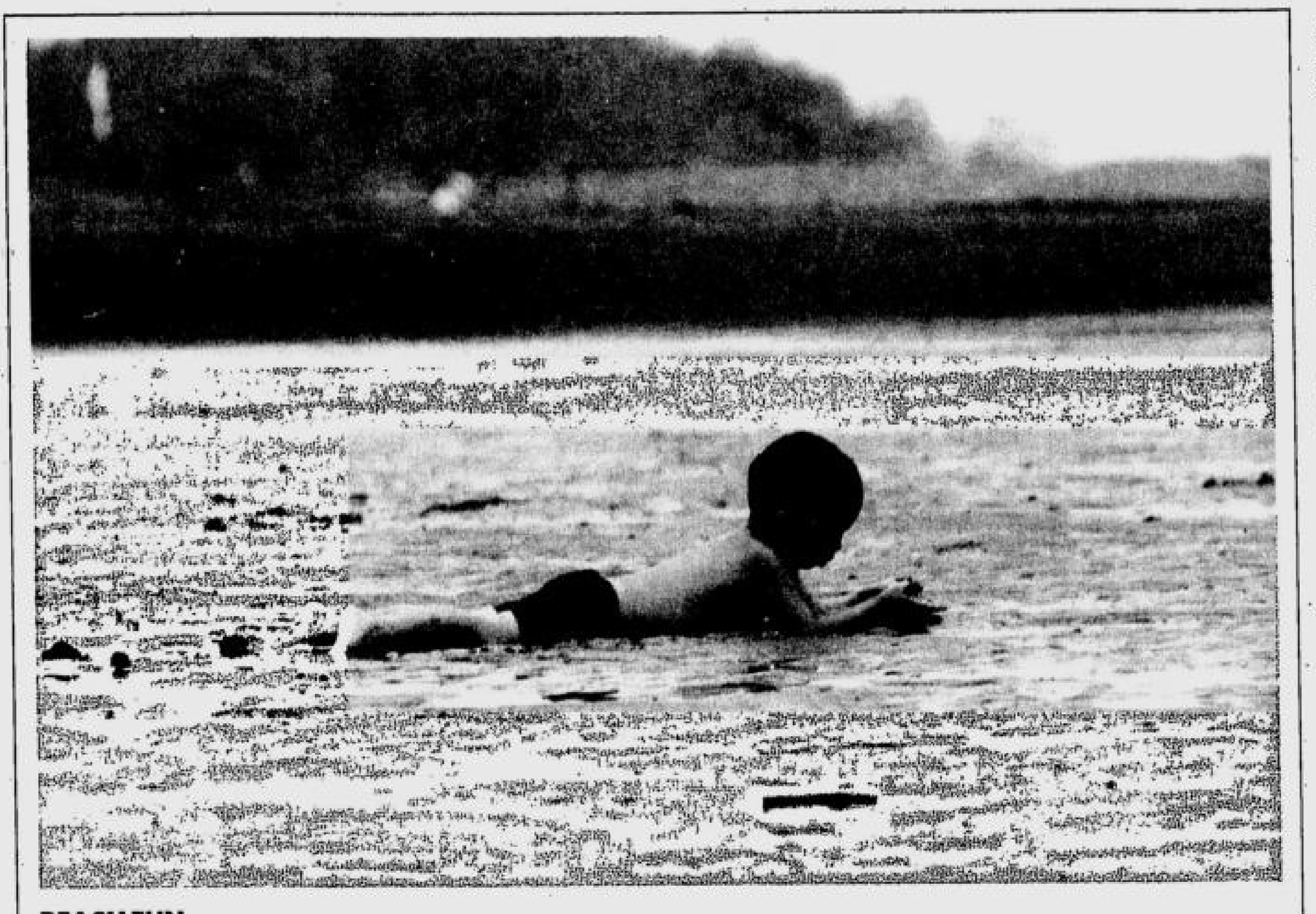
The Microsoft's Unlimited Potential program, called "Pagasa," is being implemented in cooperation with the Learn.ph Foundation.

Another learning site is located at the Don Bosco Manpower Skills and Training Center in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

The Unlimited Potential grant provides the centers in Clark and Olongapo with Microsoft software, computers, Internet connection and training modules.

Microsoft has made a five-year $1-billion commitment to Unlimited Potential and other programs to bridge the digital divide.

The recipients of this program come from more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America.



BEACH FUN
A child frolics in the sand in Times Beach in Davao City as the hot months start to set in. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO

Probe ordered of illegal logging in C. Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Environment Secretary Michael Defensor ordered an investigation of a statement made by a ranking military official on illegal logging in some parts of Central Mindanao involving personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Jim Sampulna, DENR director for Central Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that Defensor ordered him to take "appropriate and immediate action" on the reported illegal cutting of trees in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato and Barangay Kalibuhan in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

The illegal logging was uncovered when the military seized at least two truckloads of undocumented lumber valued at P2.8 million on April 17.

Col. Jerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade based in Tacurong City, claimed that two village officials and some DENR officials of Surallah town in South Cotabato were in cahoots with at least 18 individuals in running the illegal logging operation in the areas.

Sampulna said that a seven-man team has been created to look into Jalandoni's claims.

The team, headed by forester Derie Macabaning, was expected to complete its investigation by early next week.

Sampulna said he thanks the military's vigilance and said the DENR needed people like Jalandoni to ensure the success of the anti-illegal logging campaign. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

17 hurt in 4-vehicle collision

CITY OF MALOLOS—At least 17 persons were hurt in a four-vehicle collision along MacArthur Highway here on Monday morning. Police said a southbound bus cruising the highway in Barangay Tikay here at 8 a.m. hit a passenger van on the opposite lane, causing the van to fall into a creek. The wayward bus also hit two jeepneys on the opposite lane. The victims, all passengers of the van and the two jeepneys, were taken to the Sacred Heart Hospital and the Bulacan Provincial Hospital here and to the Polymedic Hospital in Guiguinto town. Police arrested the bus driver, Oliver Almandrez, 25, after the accident. Almandrez said he failed to control the bus after its brakes malfunctioned. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cop found guilty of bribery

BAGUIO CITY—The regional trial court here found a Western Police District officer guilty of an aborted attempt to bribe two narcotics agents to release two suspects earlier arrested for illegal possession of drugs. In a 29-page decision on April 18, Judge Edilberto Claravall found enough proof to convict Insp. Luis Chico who, in exchange for cash, tried to intercede for the freedom of Marcelo de Juating and Poncelito Cruz on June 30, 2002 at the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency headquarters here. Claravall sentenced Chico to six to nine years in prison. Chico was earlier charged with violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act when he dangled P200,000 to SPO3 Rey Soo and PO3 Juan Piggangay who were then tasked with guarding De Juating and Cruz at the PDEA office. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Defensor apologizes to bishop

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Environment Secretary Michael Defensor has offered his "most sincere apologies" to Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena for a remark the secretary made at a Senate hearing indicating that the bishop had supposedly altered his stand against mining. In a letter sent to Villena, Defensor clarified that what he said was that the bishop was "somehow open to a presentation on new mining technologies." "I beg Your Eminence's most kind indulgence but it was never my intention to portray or convey to the Senate that you have changed your stand on mining," Defensor said. Villena said he had accepted Defensor's offer of apology. "I admire the secretary's gesture for offering his apology, and I graciously accept it. But I am more happy that he mentioned the need for a real assessment whether or not mining would be beneficial for the country and its people," Villena said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 killed, 12 hurt in grenade blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two persons were killed, including a 2-year old girl, while 12 others were wounded when a grenade exploded in Sitio Marangan, Barangay Muti in Quinipot district here yesterday morning, police authorities said. Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Western Area Mindanao Police chief, identified the fatalities as Julie Junadi, 2, and Sammy Pandag, 25. Supt. Henry Lozanes, city police director, said one of the victims, Radjaul Arabi, found a rifle grenade around 9 a.m. and lit it up, causing it to explode. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Residents save ailing dolphin

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Coastal residents saved an ailing dolphin found on the shore of Buayan village here on Monday. Residents trooped to the area to catch a glimpse of the two-meter long sea creature, that bore two injuries in the body. But Rene Paraba, executive director of Sarangani Environmental Conservation and Protection Center (ECPC), told reporters that the injuries were caused by parasites. Paraba said the dolphin has a big chance of surviving and the wounds would heal on its own. He said maybe the dolphin went ashore to rest but it failed to swim back into the high seas when low tide came. Local coast guard personnel brought the dolphin to Makar wharf where it was released back into the sea. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Former Mindoro mayor dies

CITY OF CALAPAN—Former Mayor Raul Tria Virola, 71, of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, died on April 29 in his Marikina home due to a heart attack. He served the longest term as mayor of Lubang for 20 years since 1972. His remains will be transported to Lubang Island on Tuesday for the funeral on May 6 at the Lubang Catholic cemetery. Roberto Virola Tapales, his nephew, said among his significant contributions are facilitating the surrender of Japanese straggler Onoda and assisting more than 15,000 Vietnamese refugees in late 1970s before they were brought to Bataan and Palawan. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon*

Erap celebrates '10 decades of love'

From page A1

JV Ejercito, as he supervised a program rehearsal at the stately venue on Friday night.

"It's not often that you reach a hundred," he said. "The best we can give her is love and a few more years with us ... We want to make the most of it."

As he spoke, rows of children were practicing a chorus number onstage, taking cues from the floor director. Keeping a close watch were doting parents, including Estrada's daughter, Jackie, and her husband, Beaver Lopez.

Estrada's sisters, his wife Senator Loi and son Senator Jinggoy, who's out on bail, were also there.

According to Yayoh Quizan, event organizer, the program is titled "10 Decades of Love" and will be emceed by Estrada's show biz leading lady and now political ally Boots Anson Roa, Eric Quizon and Ariel Ureta.

Former Carnival Queen

Other guest entertainers include pop singer Randy Santiago and singing diva Dulce who will perform the celebrator's favorite Tagalog classics "*Anak ng Dalita*" and "*Ugoy ng Duyan*."

Quizan said there would also be a video tribute to the matriarch depicting her life as a mother and grandmother, as well as her little-known feat of winning Manila City Hall's "Carnival Queen" pageant in the 1920s.

Yes, "Doña Mary"—a soprano who also played the piano—was a crowned beauty before her 1926 wedding to Emilio Ejercito, who was then a sanitary engineer of the Manila city government. Emilio passed away in 1978 at age 79.

In marriage, she was a simple housewife in charge of a large household, according to daughter Patrocina de Guzman, the fourth child.

Asked what she thought were her mother's secrets to longevity, Pat said *lola* had been "very outgoing. She loves to be with people and would go out with friends to celebrate a birthday, even when they were already in their 60s and 70s."

Secrets to a long life

She's the kind of person who could easily have a chat with elevator boys or approach hotel chefs for recipes, De Guzman said.

"She sets goals and accomplishes them," be it as mundane as finishing a culinary class, she added.

Jinggoy, meanwhile, said his *lola* probably owed her longevity to a religious life.

JV said it must be her "jolly" disposition. She loved cooking Spanish dishes and baking cakes for her children and *apo*.

The two grandsons said their *lola*—despite her physical decline—still has a sharp memory and has no dietary restrictions.

"She's still healthy for her age. She eats *chicharon* (pork rinds) and we allow her to do so because for us, these are already her bonus years," JV noted.

Still hurting

But then, with a son in jail and accused of corrupting the presidency, the people around Mrs. Ejercito know that she's "hurting deep inside," Jinggoy said. "Up to now, my lola has yet to accept what happened to my dad."

"She looks forward to the day when her son would be free again," JV added.

Estrada was forced out of Malacañang by a People Power uprising in January 2001 and was arrested on corruption charges three months later.

The Ejercitos initially tried to hide these debacles from the family matriarch. "But eventually she found out—and I think she became very depressed since," JV said.

Erap jokes

In his rise to the presidency, Estrada would charm crowds with his famous Erap jokes and anecdotes about being the "rebel" son who entered show biz (thus the screen surname Estrada) while his siblings went on to become accomplished professionals.

Mrs. Ejercito herself had frankly spoken about the difficulty of disciplining the young Joseph. One story she often told was how Emilio, a deeply religious man, prayed the rosary every night, offering the first 10 Hail Marys for his wife and nine children and the remaining 40 for Erap alone.

Estrada would follow up with a punchline, saying that the long prayers must have worked because he went on to become President.

The birthday bash starts with a 4 p.m. Mass and, according to Quizan, had been in the planning three months in advance.

Rape victims who file court cases continue to be on trial

From page A1

Tuesday of Davao businessman Jose Custodio on a rape charge filed in 1996 by Karen Vertido—a case that drew national interest.

"More than the material evidence, Davao RTC Judge Virginia Europa focused on the woman's behavior prior and subsequent to the rape," said Vertido's lawyer, Evalyn Ursua. "The judge asked, 'Why couldn't she have jumped from the car? Or shouted for help or locked herself in the bathroom?'"

At the same time, Ursua added, Europa dismissed expert testimony in court from trauma specialist Dr. June Pagaduan that Vertido suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), causing her "to perform below functional level."

PTSD has been described as an anxiety disorder afflicting persons who had been exposed to traumatic events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, where the response may have been intense fear, helplessness or horror.

Classic sign

Psychiatrist Dr. Laureen Conanan, whose involvement in trauma work has included dealing with political prisoners, children in conflict situations, rape victims and disaster management teams, recalled how Vertido exhibited a classic sign of PTSD the day after her ordeal.

She said Vertido persistently re-experienced the trauma: "Karen was cowering in the corner of their bedroom shouting, 'No, please, sir, don't!'—not recognizing that she was at home with her husband and family. These are brief episodes that trauma victims are able to snap out of, but are very distressing to the family. Unfortunately, one cannot just precipitate an attack like that to convince the judge."

Memory lapses

Lapses of memory about the trauma are another manifestation of PTSD, said Conanan, who heads the psychiatry section of the Davao Medical School Foundation.

"The inability to recall an important aspect of the trauma becomes a problem in court cases because the victim's memory is patchy and fragmented," she said. "Some small, apparently inconsequential details may stick to the memory but other vital details crucial to the testimony are forgotten. Recall may come belatedly."

Men they trust

A woman's seemingly passive response during the attack can also be traced to shock at being betrayed by someone she knows and trusts, said psychologist Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, who has counseled abused women for the past 17 years as a member of the women's health group Likhaan.

Claudio added: "Most women are raped by men they know and trust—father, brother, teacher, priest, date or colleague. That is why they trust the rapist when he says he will only bring packages up to their room, or when he says that he is going to pass the motel only because he left something there. And because women are made to believe that rape is worse than death, they freeze more often than fight when faced with the possibility of psychological annihilation, especially by a person who has betrayed their trust.

"Passivity does not mean consent." This is a point that the court ruling has blithely ignored, Ursua said.

No consent

"The judge ignored the evidence of resistance and in effect focused on conduct prior and subsequent to the actual penetration," the lawyer said, adding that the situation was so traumatic that Vertido lost consciousness as she struggled against the man.

"When she regained consciousness, she was already being penetrated by the man. This is a clear case of rape because the woman had no will and no way to consent to the act," Ursua said.

But the judge "expected an ideal response to a crisis situation when even the Supreme Court noted that there's no accounting for human behavior under stress or trauma," she said.

Definition of force

Ursua also assailed the court ruling that said there was "no clear evidence of direct threat or grave harm" that could have prevented Vertido from resisting the rape.

"What about force, when he used his entire body weight to press against her, causing her difficulty in breathing?" the lawyer said. "As for resistance, she tried to push him away, ran around looking for an exit, pleaded and cried, saying 'No, no, no!"

Ursua again cited the high court's definition of force: "In rape through force or intimidation, the force employed by the guilty party need not be irresistible. It is only necessary that such force is sufficient to consummate the purpose for which it was inflicted.

"Similarly, intimidation should be evaluated in light of the victim's perception at the time of the commission of the crime. It is enough that it produced the fear in the mind of the victim that if she did not yield to the bestial demands of her ravisher, some evil would happen to her at that moment or even thereafter."

'I had to live'

In an interview with the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in August 2001, Vertido recalled her thoughts during the ordeal: "What was foremost in my mind when I realized I was trapped in that motel room was that I had to survive. I had to live. If I were to be found dead in that room, who would have been able to tell my husband and children that I did not go willingly to that motel? You try not to die, you try not to get hurt. You do everything to live."

Unfortunately, our courts tend to equate lack of consent to "tenacious resistance to prove the use of force," said Ursua. "The victim must be black and blue to prove that she was not party to her rape."

In Vertido's case, her age, background and marital status were even used to discredit her.

Her account that she was too intimidated to cry for help would have been believable had she been a young, naive and unlettered woman, a city prosecutor had said early on. Being "a career woman, married, above 40, highly educated and exposed to people," she couldn't have been cowed into submission by her attacker.

Said Claudio, an associate professor at the Department of Women and Development Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman: "When we take women to the police station to report a rape, we tell them it would be better if they cried and behaved pitifully. This is part of society's idea that our sexual innocence is so important to us that we should go into hysterics when raped.

"The truth is that survival, both emotional and physical, is paramount to any fully human person. In this regard, our body and mind insulate us from the horror to ensure our psychological survival. Women will often present themselves as numb, wooden and forgetful. They can even smile inappropriately."

Learn, listen, dialogue

Conanan, who has used PTSD as a legal argument in some of her cases, sees advocacy as a way of changing public perceptions and biases on rape, "although the more formidable task is developing willingness, openness and humility among those in the legal system to learn, listen and dialogue with the other professionals in the field as partners in the process."

Working with members of the judiciary is a good start, said Ursua, who plans to raise the Vertido case to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court on a certiorari appeal.

"Our judges are part of the public and they bring into their decisions all that society believes about rape and the victims. It is a myth that judges only appreciate the evidence and apply the law. Judicial decision-making is a political process, and personal values, beliefs and opinions actually make up the lens with which judges evaluate human behavior in rape cases," Ursua said.

Judges not trained

"The law only tells us what constitutes rape, but it is the judges who decide whether a woman is vulnerable to rape based on her behavior, even if they were not trained for such a task. There is no subject in psychiatry or psychology in law school, yet judges—and lawyers and prosecutors, too—perform the task of evaluating human behavior in their work," she said.

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(How well do you know algae-resistant asphalt shingles?)

"Why do people want shingles for their roof?"

Answer: Shingles look distinctive, give a natural look, and provide the architectural style desired for the house. In one word, aesthetics.

"What in shingles can defeat this goal?"

Answer: Through the years, algae can infect the roof in highly humid areas.

"What happens to roofs infected with algae?"

Answer: Roofing materials that are exposed to high humidity get discolored and stained. This is true not only for shingles but also for other types of roofs.

These dark stains are algae growth. They can cover the entire roof after some years and make the roof look ugly indeed.

"How do we prevent algae from attacking the roof?"

Answer: To eliminate algae growth, CertainTeed produces Algae Resistant (AR) shingles.

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"Why is it worth your money to invest in AR shingles?"

Answer: An important part in the appeal of your house comes from your roof. It represents more than 50% of its exterior.

A roof that is unprotected from algae attack suffers more than discoloration. The roof is stained and loses its beauty and natural look.

"Instead of buying AR shingles, may we just apply paints with algicide on shingles?"

Answer: Paints with algicide may apply well on concrete and metal roofs without side effects. But their chemical composition may damage the integrity and performance of asphalt shingles.

"Do shingle manufacturers provide warranties on roofs coated with algicide paints?"

Answer: Because of the possible harm on the asphalt, asphalt shingles manufacturers will withdraw the warranty on their roofing material applied with such paints.

"Does algicide coating of shingles offer long term solution to algae attacks?"

Answer: Application on shingles of paints with algicide offers dubious protection from algae attacks.

These paints are brushed on the exterior of ceramic granules. With the direct exposure of the roof to heat, cold, wind and rain, the paint may peel and wash off the granules, unlike the AR shingles' copper oxide which is embedded within the ceramic granules.

"What models of CertainTeed are Algae Resistant (AR)?"

Answer: The following shingle models have algae resistance with a warranty of 10 years: CT20 AR and Landmark AR Series. The following have a warranty of 15 years: Grand Manor, Carriage House, Presidential Shake, Landmark TL.

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Simply Creative

Stress, a big contributor to Hyperacidity

By KATRINA PRIMAVERA

NO NEWS is good news. Distressing current events may not only cause your blood pressure to shoot up but it may also be a reason for your acids to act up. Stress is but one of the many factors that contribute to hyperacidity. Smoking, physical exertion, irregular eating habits, dramatic weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy hormones are also common causes of a hyperacidity attack. Hyperacidity happens when there is an excessive secretion of acid in the stomach. It is not a disease but rather a collection of symptoms, including discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen which may also cause nausea. For relief from these discomforts, the most common over-the-counter remedy is an antacid.

Different terms and varying degrees of hyperacidity

HYPERACIDITY, locally known as *pangangasim ng sikmura*, is the excessive secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. This imbalance causes a burning sensation or a slight churning in the stomach, which could also involve the esophagus and part of the small intestines.

Peptic ULCERS: refer to actual open sores or "wounds" in the inner lining of the stomach or small intestine or esophagus. Many ulcers result in a gnawing pain in the stomach and are caused by a bacteria called H. pylori. Other causes or factors which may aggravate ulcers include long term use of certain pain relievers, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and stress.

If previous pages caused hyperacidity, this page can take it out

While over-the-counter medications may relieve the pain of ulcers, a doctor should be consulted so that proper treatment directed at healing the ulcer can be started.

INDIGESTION ("dyspepsia"). This is a general term often used to describe a collection of uncomfortable abdominal symptoms which often occur after eating. The cause of indigestion can't be attributed to one particular thing and is often times not serious. This includes discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen, nausea and a bloated feeling that belching may relieve. This can stem from a temporary problem such as overeating or a stressful event rather than relating it to a disease. It is a common disorder of the upper gastrointestinal system which includes the esophagus, stomach and the first part of the small intestine. The proper diet, exercise, stress management and anti-acid medications can all help with the symptoms.

HEARTBURN. When the lower sphincter valve of the esophagus relaxes or is weak, stomach acid can flow back up into the esophagus and irritate the esophagus resulting in "heartburn". The sensation is similar to regurgitation while experiencing a sour taste in the mouth and leaving a burning sensation behind the breastbone. Acid regurgitation or reflux can even cause hoarseness of the voice , coughing, and worsening of asthma.

TREATMENT. For quick acid neutralization, New Mylanta Rolltabs (CALCIUM CARBONATE + MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE). Mylanta Rolltabs comes in chewable and great tasting flavors to aid in the rapid neutralization of acid to start relief in seconds. It's portable and comes in different flavors giving you sweet relief in no time, anytime. Don't forget to consult your doctor if symptoms persist, are severe, or keep recurring. Some of the things which may aggravate or result in heartburn: Stress, smoking, tight clothing, physical exertion, weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy.

Hyperacidity Tales

" I love coffee. I used to have 7-10 cups a day. Thing is with coffee, I would lose my appetite and end up skipping meals so I would get the worst hyperacidity attacks. I would feel as if there was this big ball burning inside my tummy." -Paul, 25

"Grabe ang hyperacidity ko. Pasulpot sulpot na lang. Para sa akin dumarating na lang yan ng walang warning. May isang beses naglalakad lang ako sa daan tapos may naramdaman akong sakit na biglaan sa tiyan. Ang tindi at ang lakas ng tama, napaupo ako sa daan bigla." -Lawrence, 24

"Ang pinakamatindi kong hyperacidity attack ay nung kumain ako ng manggang hilaw sa umaga. Hindi pa ako nag-aalmusal, so wala pang laman tiyan ko. Ay ang sakit talaga." -Mia, 24

" Hyperacidity is such a hassle. The worst part about it is that you never know when it's gonna hit you. There was this one time I was out with my girl friends and started getting spasms in my stomach. At first, I thought it was just gas or something I ate but the pain got worse as I was having my drinks. So not only did I have to pass up on the drinks, the pain became unbearable so I went home and missed out on what would have been a perfectly good night out." -Karen, 35

"I would get acidic once in a while but for some reason, it's more frequent and more intense during exam week. Things are a little bit more busy at that time. I like to go out kasi. Hanging with the boys and spending time with my girlfriend so tendency is for me to study last minute. I think the

CONT...

cramming and the pressure just aggravates my hyperacidity. Stress, you know?" -Joey 17,

"Hindi ako familiar sa mga sakit na ganyan. Basta iniisip ko lagi, lilipas lang yan. Pero may isang beses na nakaranas ako ng sakit sa tiyan. Ay, kakaiba talaga. Hindi ko siya maipinta. Parang may mainit at mahapding bulateng umiikot sa loob ng tiyan ko. Sinubukan kong itulog pero sa tindi ng sakit, hindi ako makatulog. Akala ko nagkaka-dysmenorrhea na ko , pero sus, hyperacidity pala siya" -Tiffany, 24

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TO CELEBRATE their 60th anniversary, Mercury Drug relieves sufferers of hyperacidity for free. Together with Mylanta Rolltabs, each coupon entitles one person to one roll of Mylanta Rolltabs which can be claimed at any Mercury Drug outlet.

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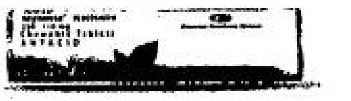

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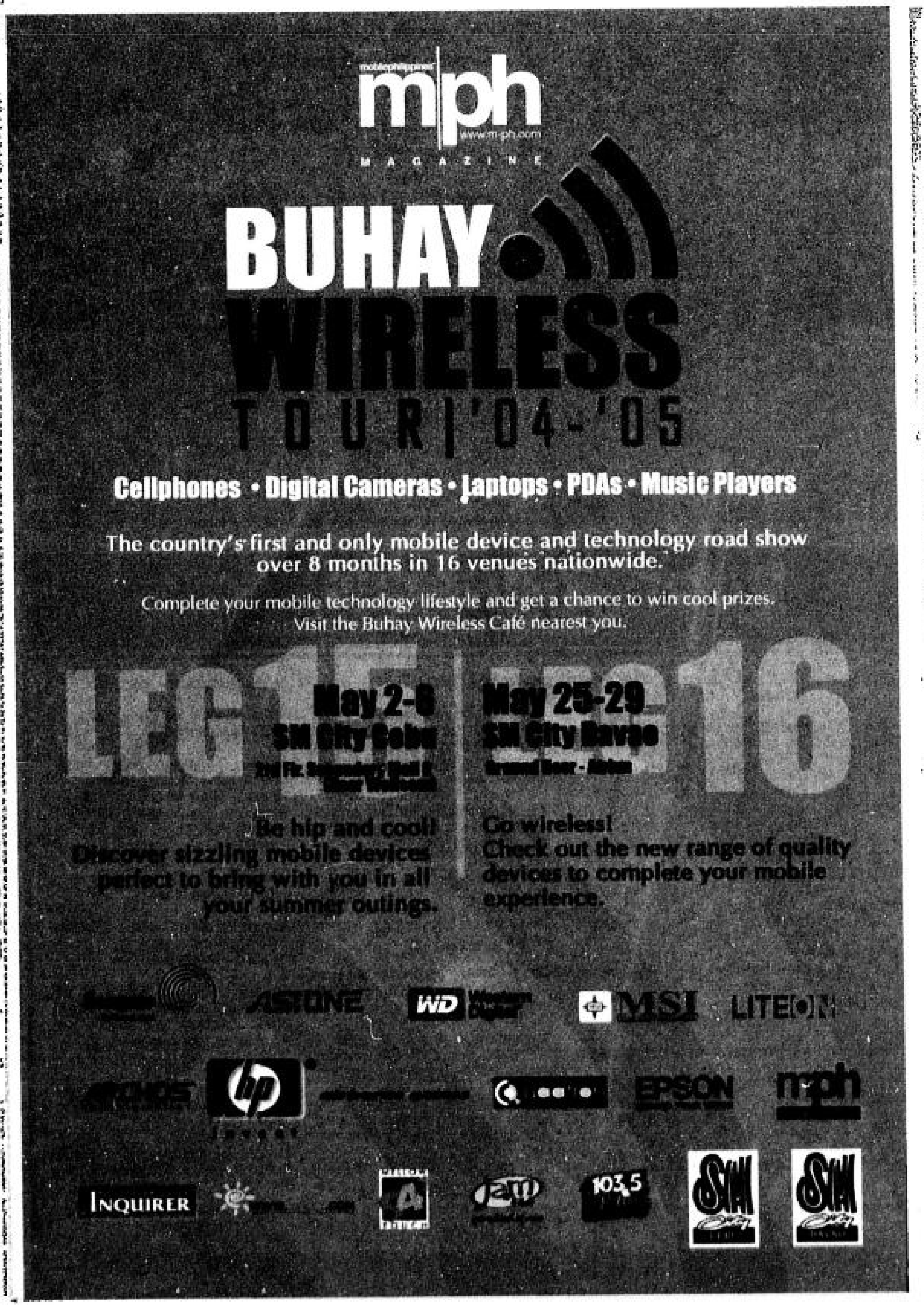

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RECRUITMENT

Only from PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Childhood memory inspires crusade

By DJ Yap

AS A BOY of 10 or 11, he watched his neighbors, a family of four, staring helplessly as flames engulfed their home, on New Year's Eve sometime in the 1960s.

The image was forever etched in the young boy's memory. Today, some 40 years later, Van Resurreccion is still fighting what he considers the single biggest tragedy to befall a family: fire.

Fire was tragic because it was so easy to prevent, said Resurreccion, a senior fire inspector of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and founding chair and president of the Foundation for Filipino Fire Fighters Inc. (F5).

But people only began to care about fire when it was their homes that were burning, or their own lives that were in danger, he added.

The horror stories are unimaginable, like that of a mother who realized too late that she held a pillow, not her child, as she fled her burning house.

Personal crusade

Resurreccion has been a firefighter and advocate of fire safety and prevention for the past 24 years—almost half of his life. He is on a personal crusade to educate people about the need for a more proactive stance in fire and home safety, using his positions at the BFP inspection and enforcement section and the nongovernment and nonprofit F5 to spread his message.

"When people see and hear a fire truck speeding past, sirens blaring, they immediately want to know where the fire is. Upon hearing that it is nowhere near their homes, they lose interest," Resurreccion said in Filipino.

The attitude was passive and reactive, which could explain why most Filipinos did not know the simplest ways to prevent fire, he said. When a family's electricity was disconnected, for example, he said, the family would start using candles, without taking necessary precautions.

It did not help any, said Resurreccion, that laws on fire and safety were inadequate and even inconsistent.

He said the Fire Code and Building Code were being observed and enforced by separate entities. The separation, he noted, was self-defeating and led to confusion on who should be held responsible.

"When a fire occurs, people begin pointing fingers. The media point to the fire department, the fire department points to the building owners," he said.

Resurreccion said what should be done was to consolidate concerned agencies into one office, a public safety department that would oversee the implementation of fire safety laws.

Devolution

It would be even better, he said, if the government seriously considered devolving the BFP functions, particularly to city governments that could afford to operate fire stations. Funds allocated for the BFP could then be used to put up fire stations in provinces that needed them.

A total of 851 municipalities had no fire stations, he said. In cities and towns with fire stations, 340 out of 1,543 fire trucks were non-operational, he added.

Though BFP complained of insufficient funds, Resurreccion said money was not really the problem.

The key, he said, was to develop a national fire safety program, with emphasis on prevention.

This was emphasized during the recent Fire Safety Summit of fire safety advocates organized by F5 at Gusaling Bayanihan in Barangay Holy Spirit, Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City. F5 plans to hold another summit in Aklan this month.

Barangay-based

Resurreccion said fire prevention should be brought to the barangay level. "The people who know best how to fight fire in a barangay are those who live there," he said. Barangay officials could help each other.

Instead of every barangay buying its own fire prevention tools, neighboring communities could share resources.

Barangay-based fire prevention is what Resurreccion's F5 has been advocating since its inception more than a year ago.

The foundation boasts a membership of some 1,000 active firefighters and about 400 civilians. Most of the members were based in Metro Manila. Others came from Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite and Cebu.

The F5's firefighter members had no "stars" or were not high officials from the BFP, Resurreccion said. This enabled the F5 to work quietly for the adoption of a national fire safety program, he said.

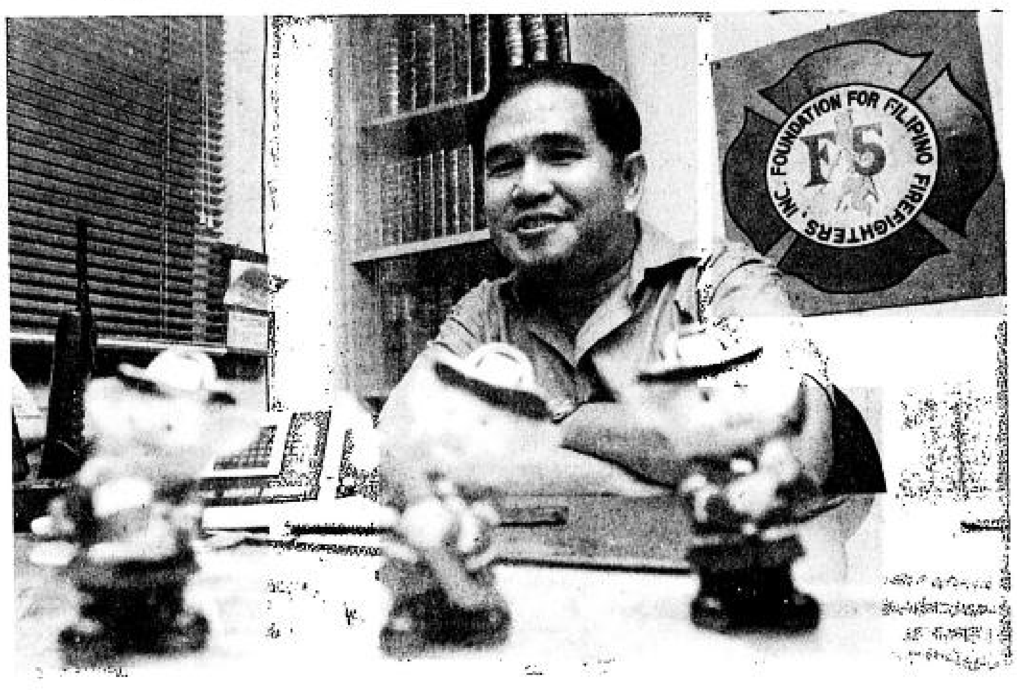
The foundation gets its funding from private donors, such as Metrobank Foundation, and other institutions, he said. It has a cramped office in Caloocan.

People's enthusiasm

Resurreccion said he was heartened by the enthusiasm of people when they learned of his cause. His brother Eric left his job in the corporate world to assist in managing F5.

Resurreccion, who has five children aged from 30 to 12 with wife Belinda, is hopeful Filipinos would soon support his advocacy and make fire safety consciousness more the rule than the exception in a country that averaged 8,000 fires since 1995.

"My name is Resurreccion. If there's life after death, then there's plenty of hope for what I'm doing," he said.


FOUNDATION FOR FILIPINO FIREFIGHTERS, INC.
F5

IMAGES of a neighbor's house being destroyed by fire (similar to that on the file photo above) stayed with Van Resurreccion, right, and helped him decide to become a firefighter.

Fire hits hospital in Manila

TENSION gripped patients of a hospital and a densely populated area in Manila after two fires struck the city yesterday.

Senior Fire Officer 1 Gaudencio Magallanes of the Manila Fire Department said the first fire hit Unciano Hospital at the corner of Guadalcanal and V. Mapa Streets, Sta. Mesa, at 11:45 a.m.

But he said the blaze, which started at the fourth floor of the five-story building, lasted only 15 minutes.

Fire probers said hospital personnel quickly responded and put it out.

Two hours later, at about 2 p.m., another fire hit the two-story Alaska Lumber on Rajabago Street, Tondo.

Magallanes said the fire originated from the workers' quarters on the second floor of the lumberyard owned by a certain Felipe Dy.

Fire authorities have yet to determine the cause of the two fires and to estimate damage to properties, Magallanes added.

No one was reported injured in both fire incidents.

Tina G. Santos

Caloocan crime rate seesaws

UP, DOWN. Up, down.

So goes the crime rate in Caloocan City.

From 165 reported cases in January, the figure slightly dipped to 160 in February, then drastically shot up to 282 in March and may be lower in April, if a trend of lower crime incidence continues up to the end of that month.

"From a high of 282 in March, there were only 72 cases reported for the first two weeks of April," said Mayor Enrico Echeverri.

He said he was alarmed when from 165 cases in February, the crime rate almost doubled in March.

The city, which hosts several depressed communities, has been a haven of holdup and robbery groups, a police official said.

The official cited Barangay Bagong Silang.

Because of the increasing number of crime cases, the local police, according to Echeverri, have decided to centralize its investigation efforts.

The police also doubled their crime prevention operations which resulted in a decrease in the crime rate, he said.

The mayor said the 10 additional patrol cars provided by the local government were a tremendous help in the arrest of suspects and the prevention of street crimes.

He also supplied the local office with seven computer units to be used in the Comprehensive Anti-Crime Strategy (Compstat), which will serve as the unit's database in monitoring crime that takes place in the city.

During the first four months of 2005, a total of 679 cases were reported.

Robbery and physical injuries topped the list with 228 cases each, followed by theft numbering 163.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Ayala Ave. to be closed on May 6

STARTING noon until 5 p.m, on May 6, Ayala Avenue will be closed to traffic to give way to a grand parade in preparation for Makati City's 335th anniversary celebration on June 1.

"The parade is one of the highlights of the monthlong festivities of Makati City's foundation," said Joey Salgado, head of the city's information and community relations department.

Expected to join the parade, Salgado said, are members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of the business community, professionals, residents and students from the 33 barangays of the city.

Due to the temporary closure of Ayala Avenue, affected commuters and motorists are advised to take alternative routes.

Buses and private vehicles coming from and going to Edsa could take Gil Puyat Avenue. Those from Pasay City and Manila can also take Gil Puyat, turn left to Tordesillas and take Zuellig Loop.

Private vehicles coming from Ayala Avenue going to Gil Puyat or Legazpi Village, may turn right on Ayala Avenue, right on Amorsolo to the covered canal on Arnaiz Avenue.

If you are coming from Edsa and going to Legazpi Village, turn right at Arnaiz Avenue then right to Paseo de Roxas.

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Probers close in on Lanot gunman

By Blanche S. Rivera

POLICE now know who killed former Pasig Rep. Henry Lanot.

Investigators have identified the gunman who casually walked up to Lanot inside a Pasig City restaurant on April 13 and shot the former congressman, who was having lunch with a friend.

The assailant, whom police refused to name, was only described as a professional. His identity was found out two days ago.

"We already established the identity of the gunman, and efforts are ongoing likewise to find out the identity of his accomplice," Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, head of the Eastern Police Distrct, said during the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo in Quezon City.

Valenzuela said that contrary to initial theories, the assailant was not acting alone but had a lookout who surveyed the restaurant.

New witnesses have come forward and bolstered the leads being pursued by police.

The sketch of the assailant has also been modified based on the accounts of the new witnesses.

"Some of the previous witnesses now have a clearer recollection of how the gunman looked," Valenzuela told the INQUIRER during a recent visit with the paper's staff.

Valenzuela was optimistic that the gunman was still in Metro Manila.

He said police have also established that the gun used to kill Lanot was placed inside a handbag as the gunman shot his target, to avoid leaving empty shells at the crime scene.

"Without a doubt, all evidence points to the fact that the hit was well-planned and was the handiwork of a professional," Valenzuela said.

Valenzuela, however, refused to disclose the motive for Lanot's killing or the probability of a mastermind being behind the slay, saying it would jeopardize the progress made on Lanot's case.

"Investigators are upbeat. We have a clear idea of who he (assailant) is... It's a breakthrough. We hope to make substantial progress in a few days," Valenzuela said.

He dodged questions that implied Lanot's murder could have been politically motivated.

According to witness accounts, the gunman arrived at the Jade Palace restaurant on Shaw Boulevard ahead of Lanot.

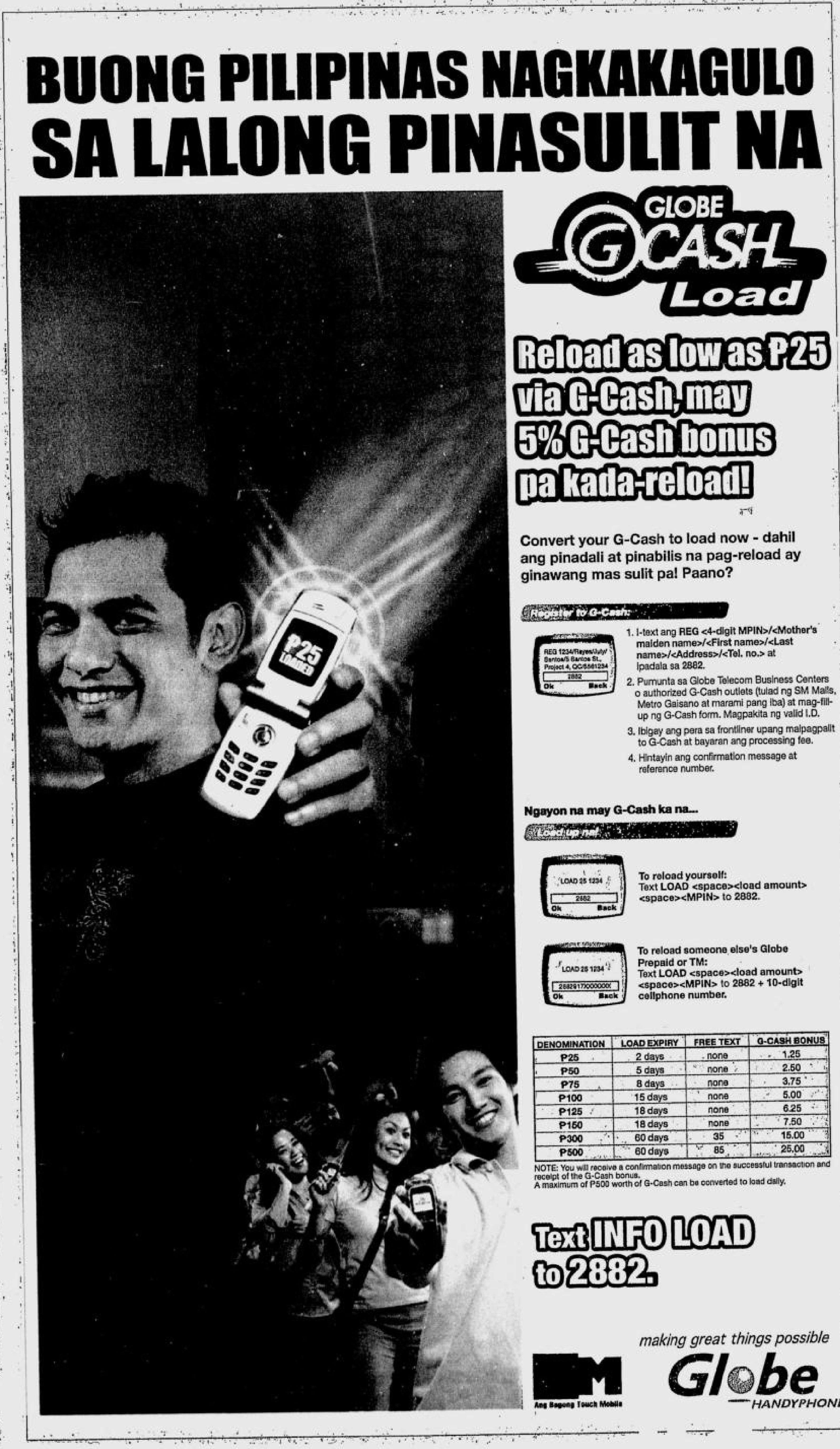
The gunman sat at a table near the restaurant's restrooms.

When Lanot arrived, he walked over to a table which was then occupied by Romeo Santos, a former Caloocan City representative. He sat with his back to the toilet.

The table occupied by Santos was a few feet away from the restrooms.

At this juncture, the gunman walked into the men's room then emerged holding a bag.

He walked up to Lanot and shot him in the head.



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Manila fields TV celebrities in May parade

MOTORISTS beware.

If Labor Day rallies don't stop you today, a parade of beauties in Manila might do just that.

Hundreds of people are expected to choke a stretch of Roxas Boulevard and Quirino Avenue to get a glimpse of movie and television celebrities who will participate in the city's annual Flores de Mayo procession.

Consequently, the Manila government said that from 3 to 8 p.m., the northbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from Quirino Avenue to P. Burgos Street, and Gen. Luna Street from P. Burgos Street to Puerto Real in Intramuros, will be closed to traffic.

A huge crowd is expected to fill both sides of Quirino Avenue to get a glimpse of the stars who will join the parade as "sagalas."

Prior to the parade, the sagalas will converge at the Raja Sulayman Park in Malate where a short program will be held to kick off the event, said Arles Jimenez, chief of the city's tourism office.

The Flores de Mayo is a joint effort of the city government and the Department of Tourism.

To ensure safety and order, the parade route will be cordoned off.

Police and a civilian auxiliary force will be deployed along the stretch of Quirino Avenue, Jimenez said. *Tina G. Santos*

Engine 'defect' adding to woes of car owners

AS THE price of gasoline continues to soar, many motorists are unaware that a "defect" in their car engines is helping drain their gas tanks of precious fuel, a mechanic-turned-inventor revealed.

Worse, the "defect" in the engine's design has been contributing to the worsening air pollution in the country, said Pablo Planas, 67, of San Juan.

According to Planas, he has discovered that the basic make-up of a car engine makes it waste gasoline and produce hazardous fumes, much of which is unburned fuel.

"This unburned fuel is wasted fuel," Planas told the INQUIRER in an interview at his office at the President's Tower in Quezon City.

He said gasoline was being wasted whenever a driver lets go of the gas pedal and when the engine is kept running while the car is not moving.

Planas explained that the problem lay mainly in the way the engine was built.

For engines to run, he said, these need to burn a mixture of gasoline and air.

"The right mix is fifteen parts of air and one part of gasoline, or a ratio of fifteen-to-one," Planas expounded.

When a driver lets go of the gas pedal, the engine throttle, which allows air to come in and mix with gasoline, closes.

With the throttle closed, Planas said, no more air gets into the engine, which is then forced to suck in more gasoline.

Thus the mix of 15 parts air to 1 part gasoline becomes almost 100 percent gasoline, much of which is left unburned.

The same happens when the engine is left on while the car is stopped.

"That not only wastes gasoline but also creates pollution," said Planas, who started out as a mechanic-jeepney operator in the '70s.

He said that when he discovered this "defect" in the car engine, he came up with an invention, now called the Khaos Super Turbo Charger.

What the device simply does, Planas said, is allow air to enter the engine even when the throttle is closed. Thus, the "defect" is "cured," he said.

Tests conducted by the Department of Energy and the Department of Science and Technology have shown that the "curing" of the "defect" has led to engine efficiency, which resulted in savings in gasoline consumption and nearly zero pollution.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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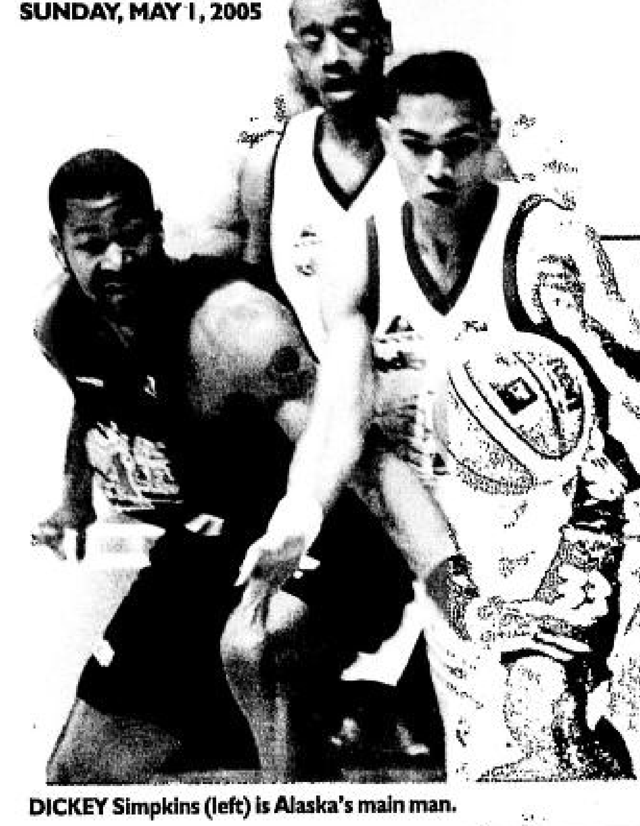


DICKEY Simpkins (left) is Alaska's main man.

Pals gain share of lead

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola
6:35 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

CAVITE CITY—Jimmy Alapag's three-pointer provided enough cushion for Talk 'N Text to nail a 98-92 victory over Sta. Lucia and gain a share of the lead in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the San Sebastian Gymnasium.

Alapag took matters into his hands with just a minute left and launched the trey that cooled the Realtors' final surge from 13 points down.

Chester Tolomia capped Sta. Lucia's ferocious chase by knocking in back-to-back triples, 92-93, before Alapag buried a three-pointer of his own and Gerald Honeycutt put the exclamation with a rim-rattling dunk that pegged the final score.

Alapag went 4 of 11 from the three-point zone and finished with 22 points.

The Phone Pals grabbed a piece of the pole position in the company of the San Miguel Beermen and the Alaska Aces after winning seven of their 11 games.

With the setback, the Realtors snapped a four-game run and plummeted back into the cellar with a 5-7 record.

Meanwhile, Alaska hopes to stretch a six-game winning streak and grab the overall lead when it plays Coca-Cola at the Araneta Coliseum today.

Ginebra, champion of the last two conferences, tries to stop a four-game slide against skidding Shell in the other game.

The scores:

TALK N TEXT 98—Alapag 22, Honeycutt 16, Miller 16, Carey 11, Pablo 9, Telan 8, Camaso 7, Belano 7, Ravena 0, De Ocampo 0.

STA. LUCIA 92—Fletcher 22, Tolomia 18, Omolon 12, Demape 12, Espino 10, Mendoza 10, Santos 3, Duremdes 3, Calimag 2.

Quarters: 31-24, 53-43, 74-67, 98-92

Australians to test RP nat'l pool

THIS one's for real.

After sweeping an Iranian team last week, Coach Chot Reyes and his 21-man Philippine training pool team are bracing for a tougher battle with an Australian squad.

Three-time and reigning National Basketball League (NBL) champion Trendwest Sydney Kings will play the Nationals in two tune-up games set on May 9 and 10.

Reyes believes his two RP squads—divided into San Mig Coffee-Team A and Purefoods Sugar Cane Vinegar-Team B—will have their hands full against the Aussies, mentored by Australian national coach Brian Goorjian and powered by the core of the Kings that swept the Wollongong Hawks in the best-of-five finals for their third straight NBL championship.

"The Sydney Kings are definitely a strong team," said Reyes, who plans to shuffle the roster of both San Mig Coffee and Purefoods Sugar Cane Vinegar squads during the games.

The Nationals tamed the Iranians twice in a pocket tournament week, hardly getting the desired training for a pair of international meets to be held later this year.

The Aussies should do better.

Goorjian, considered one of the best defensives coaches in the world today, is a four-time NBL Coach of the Year awardee and the architect of the Kings' three straight NBL titles, the only ball club to do the feat in the 27-year history of the league.

Four-time Olympian and former National Basketball Association veteran Shane Heal once played for Goorjian as part of the Kings championship team.

Another Sydney Kings player familiar to Filipino fans is Mark Sanford, the long-time Coca-Cola import whom Reyes handled in the past, a vital cog in the team's title campaign in the last NBL tournament.

Sanford just arrived in the country and currently reinforces the Tigers in the PBA Fiesta Cup.

"I assure our fans that these two games against the Aussies will be worth watching. They can't afford to miss these games," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Among those suiting up for the Kings in their exhibition games against the Nationals are Ben Knight, David Barlow, Brad Sheridan, Luke Martin and team captain CJ Bruton.

The team is arriving on May 9, coming straight from a stint in the Singapore Cup, a short, three-day tournament slated May 6-8, where the Kings will be up against ball clubs from China, Korea and Jordan.

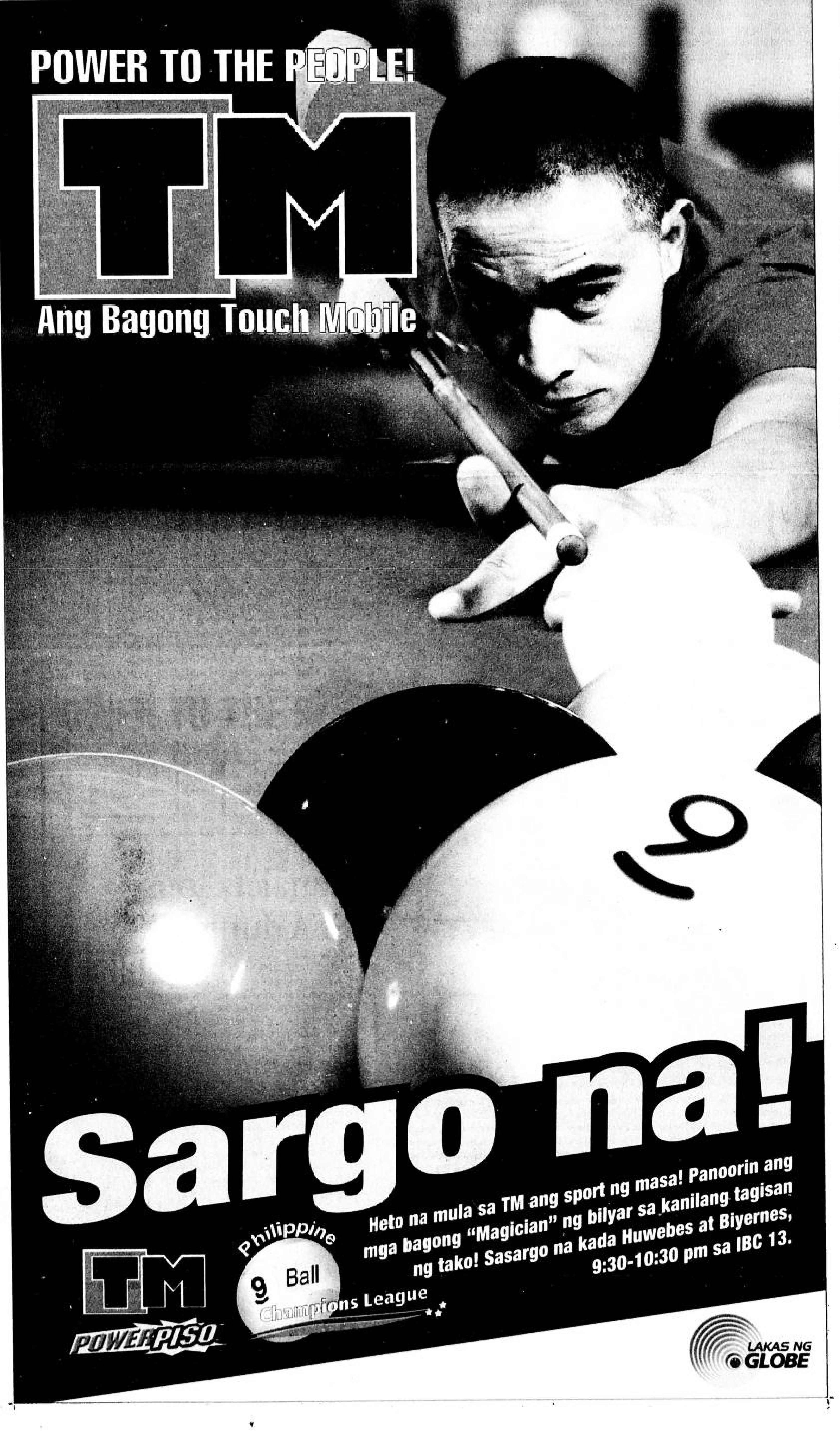
Others in the Kings' roster are Brett Wheeler, Graeme Dann, Luke Brennan and import Damon Thornton.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Iverson puts Sixers back in hunt; Suns pull away /A28

■ Tagaytay pulls off Fed league shocker /A30

■ Harbour Centre wins /A26



Heto na mula sa TM ang sport ng masa! Panoorin ang mga bagong "Magician" ng bilyar sa kanilang tagisan ng tako! Sasargo na kada Huwebes at Biyernes, 9:30-10:30 pm sa IBC 13.

COJUANGCO

We'll win SEAG title deservedly—Peping

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES will win the overall title in the coming Southeast Asian Games—deservedly—in the fields of battle and not anywhere else.

This was, in essence, the statement made by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco after the final meeting of the SEAG Federation Council that allowed the addition of 53 events on Friday.

"If we win, and we will win this Southeast Asian Games, it will be with our heads up high," Cojuangco said. "Nobody will say that we took advantage of any situation. I'm making sure of that.

"We're going to host this the way it is intended to be—a friendly competition amongst friends in Southeast Asia.

"We will win because we deserve to win, because our athletes are better. Not because of any manipulations."

Cojuangco also said that the addition of those events will not entail a significant increase in the budget of hosting the Games, which was pegged between P800 million and P1.2 billion.

Preparations of the athletes for the battles that lie ahead can now go full swing, and the POC has opened talks with national training director Michael Keon in upgrading the training facilities of the nationals.

Meanwhile, all of the games' venues will be checked by each of the 11 participating countries' chefs de mission on Sept. 6.

There will be no new infrastructures to be put up, with repairs in all of the country's existing venues expected to start in the coming weeks to satisfy international standards.

"After this (SEAGFC meeting), the Philsoc, the POC, the national sports associations and the PSC will go down seriously on venue preparations, equipment preparations, and especially on the training of our athletes," said PSC officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez.

Harbour Centre wins

HARBOUR Centre used a torrid third period to break open a close game with Bacchus and boost its chances of making the PBL Unity Cup semifinals outright after a 97-85 victory yesterday at the JCSGO gym in Cubao.

Magnum Membrere hit timely baskets from the outside, fueling a scorching run with two straight triples as the Port Masters turned a 43-39 halftime edge to 68-45 and cruise to their fifth win in seven games.

Membrere, held to a basket in the first two periods, finished with 10 points and was one of five players in double digits for coach Tonichi Yturri. Mark Cardona led all scorers with 20.

LA Tenorio, Lou Gatumbato and Cardona highlighted that decisive salvo by scoring a triple each as the Port Masters got back on the winning track after their four-game winning run was snapped by Welcoat Paints last Thursday, 78-81.

The Energy Kings dropped to 1-6, their chances of even making to the quarters now in peril.

With almost everybody contributing to the Harbour cause, the Port Masters posted their biggest lead at 84-62 early in the fourth. Cardona scored nine of his total in the first period as he pressed his bid to win the scoring title for the second straight time.

With Membrere scoring eight points in the third, the Port Masters outscored the Energy Kings, 33-18. Cardona and Gatumbato contributed five points each in the quarter as the Port Masters flaunted their offensive might.

"We did not defend well in the first half so I told them to intensify their defense and they responded well in the third," said coach Tonichi Yturri, who also drew fine performances from Gabby Espinas and Jenkins Mesina.

Despite the win, Yturri refused to be confident, saying they need to win at least three of their remaining four games to clinch one of two outright semifinals berths.

In the second game, Granny Goose Kornets held on to snap Montaña Pawnshop's six-game winning run, 71-67, and stay in the hunt for an outright semis berths.

The Snackmasters improved to 3-4 while the Jewels slipped to 6-1.

The scores:

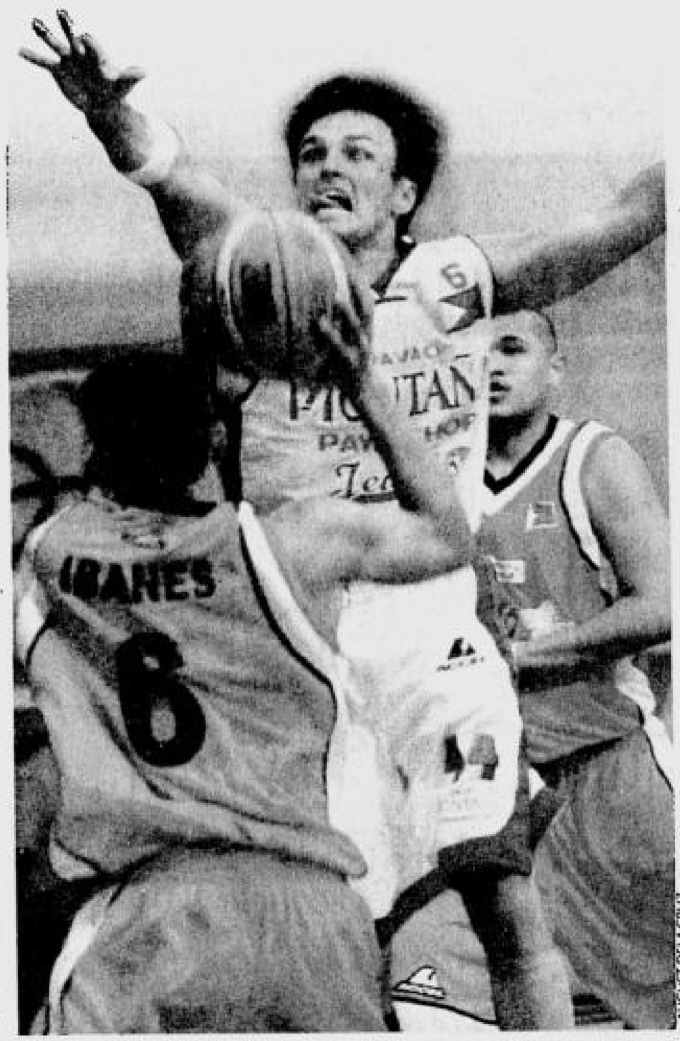
First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 97—Cardona 20, Espinas 13, Tenorio 10, Membrere 10, Gatumbato 10, Mesina 9, Bugia 7, Gaco 7, Solis 5, Mendoza 2, Buenafe 2, Dizon 2, Castro 0, Sans 0.

BACCHUS 85—Epondulan 13, Nalion 13, Hubalde 12, Holper 12, Vizcarra 10, Menor 8, Cordero 7, Abadia 5, Coyukang 5, Uy 0, Te 0.

Quarters: 27-25, 43-39, 76-57, 97-85.

GAMES TUESDAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis-Letran vs Nenaco-SBC
4 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Magnolia Ice Cream



MONTAÑA'S Alex Compton challenges Jireh Ibañez of Granny Goose.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

No room yet for some RP bets at Ultra

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HOME sweet home?

Not quite for a handful of national athletes who were forced to return to their old quarters at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex after finding out that there's no room for them at the newly refurbished Philsports in Pasig.

The athletes expressed disappointment when they discovered that there are only a few rooms to accommodate them when they were expecting a grand reception at the Philsports (formerly Ultra), which had undergone renovation to house them.

But the Philippine Sports Commission quickly explained that there were "misinformation" spread among the 300 national athletes that they would be transferred to Philsports all at the same time.

"There was a misinformation and we are sorry for that little inconvenience," said PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy. "Rest assured that all of them will be transferred to Philsports, where better quarters await them."

What happened, according to Iroy, was that only five rooms were prepared for the first batch of "lipat-bahay" for the national athletes.

The space is good only for around 40 athletes and coaches from track and field.

But athletes from other sports thought all the 40 rooms inside the Philsports would be ready for occupancy so they brought all their things last week only to be disappointed.

Iroy said the rest of the rooms would be completed soon but made no time-frame for it. He reiterated the earlier announcement of PSC officer in charge Butch Ramirez that the Philsports will be the new "Olympic Village of RP athletes."

Django bows out in Taiwan

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante bowed out of the 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, blowing a four-rack lead for a 7-9 loss to Japanese ace Kunihiko Takahashi at the Kaoshiung Business Center in Taiwan yesterday.

"I feel like I am cursed in this tournament," rued Bustamante in Filipino. "I didn't get the breaks out there."

Bustamante's loss left Ronnie Alcano as the last Filipino in the crack 32-man draw. The rotation expert claimed the scalp of two-time world champion and hometown hero Chao Fong-Pang, 9-8, to advance to the quarterfinals.

Top seed Efren "Bata" Reyes was ousted by Malaysian Ibrahim Buin Amir, 6-9, Friday night.

Alcano pounced on a small opening, cleaning up the table on Chao's break after the Taiwanese left the red three on the edge of the right corner pocket.

The second-seeded Bustamante blew a 7-3 lead after a run out on the 10th, but an assortment of bad breaks stalled his bid for a first semifinal appearance in this year's tour.

First was a scratch on the 12th, which led to a Takahashi clean-up, followed by a missed try on a 1-5 combo on the 14th and an empty break on the 16th.

"The combination is not really the strength of my game," Bustamante added. "But it was the breaks in the latter racks that did me in."

Takahashi will next face the winner between Au Chi-Wai of Hong Kong and Chang Pei-Wei of Taiwan.

Alcano, who bundled out Nguyen Thanh Nam of Vietnam in the opening round, 9-5, actually had control of the match until a scratch on his final break allowed the two-time world pool champion to level at 8 and break for the match.

Chao, a native of the host city, pocketed the pink four on his break and got a clear shot on the one as the local fans held their breaths in anticipation of a thrilling victory.

But what followed was a collective sigh of frustration after their hero left the red three hanging on the edge of the right corner pocket and let Alcano back to clean the table.

The lanky Filipino was set to meet double-leg winner Yang Ching-Shun in the quarterfinals late last night.

Yang, another pool idol from Kaohsiung, earlier defeated Ryu Seung Woo of Korea, 9-3, and Fung Kwok Wai of Hong Kong, 9-4.

The winner between Alcano and Yang will go up against either Japanese Satoshi Kawabata or Malaysian Ibrahim Bin Amir, the conqueror of Efren "Bata" Reyes in the second round.

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YOUNG CHAMPS: Futures Tennis Foundation president lawyer Alberto Agra (left, back) joins the winners of the 2005 Toby's Philta Age-Group Tennis Challenge led by International School Manila's Joshua Tan Ho (boys' 18-under), Francis Casey Alcantara (16 and 14 under), Bernardine Siso (12-under) and Jacob Lagman (unisex 10-under), Michelle Pang (girls' 18-under), Jessica Agra (16-under), Zhane Quitara (12-under), Regina Santiago (12-under), Joseph Arcilla (non-ranking 21-under), Mark Cruz (16-under), and Vince Salas (12-under).

Canaleta tops SEA dunk tilt

RP-CEBUANA Lhuillier's Nino Canaleta did the country proud by emerging champion in the recent South East Asian Dunk competition in Kuala Lumpur last week.

Held as part of the Petronas 3 On 3 basketball competition, the slam dunk contest was participated in by host Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

The 6-foot-6 Canaleta, a senior management student of UE, beat the Malaysian entry in the finals by getting a perfect 30 points when he jumped over three persons.

"I was confident because I knew I can handle my rivals. They really gave me a big scare," said Canaleta in Filipino.

Canaleta has been with the Cebuana Lhuillier-supported national training team since last year.

Davao Del Norte rules Petron U-17 Football

DAVAO del Norte won the PFF-Petron U-17 Championship in East Mindanao with a sterling 9-0 defeat of Surigao.

Davao's goals came from Jerome Fabre with four (18th, 21st, 23rd, 54th minutes), Artnoel Manulat (30th, 65th), Ian Maguilimutan (72nd,85th) and Raymond Constancia (75th).

It swept the tournament by whipping Butuan, 12-0, in the opener and Agusan del Sur, 9-1, Friday. In the other match, Agusan del Sur beat host Butuan, 4-1.

The 1st PFF-Petron U-17 Championship in East Mindanao was hosted by the Butuan-Agusan del Norte Football Association (Banfa) and backed by Mayor Francisco Chan Jr. of Buenavista.

Eric Pocon, president of the Agusan del Sur Football Association, Stephine Gorgonio, president of the Surigao Football Association, and Carlos Jamer, general-secretary of Banfa were special guests of the 3-day event.

Tournament director was Warren Concepcion of the Negros Occidental Football Association, while the overall coordinator was Romeo Dumo of the Buenavista Football Club.

The PFF-Petron U-17 Championships is also supported by Philippine Football Federation sponsor-partners like Red Ribbon Bakeshop, SuperFerry and Adidas.

SPORTSWATCH

Big field seen in New Balance race

RUNNING enthusiasts, weekend joggers and the like are expected to join the big guns of local racing in the New Balance Power Race firing off May 29 at the Fort Bonifacio, Global City, in Taguig. Registration centers are set at the Race Office, Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., Greenhills, San Juan; New Balance Festival Supermall, second level, Filinvest, Alabang; New Balance Glorietta, ground floor, Glorietta 4, Makati City; The Athletes Foot, Robinson's Ermita, second level, Robinson's Place Ermita; Planet Sports Rockwell, second level, Power Plant Mall, Makati City; and The Athletes Foot Galleria, third level, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas. Events on tap are the 25K Open race and age-group; 10K Open and age-group; 10K corporate team; 5K Open and 4K intercollegiate race. Registration fee is P150 for the 4K, 5K and 10K events and P250 for the 25K run. For details, log on to www.nbpowerrace.com.

Maralit Plaridel Invitational champ

RETIRED Gen. Cris Maralit fired a net 65 to win the overall championship in the 1st Samahang Plaridel Invitational Golf Tournament at the Intramuros golf course Thursday. Maralit pieced together nines of 39-37 in the par-66 layout, capped by a one-foot birdie on the par-3 16th hole. INQUIRER's Jun Engracia had a net 66 to win top class A honors. He had a birdie and 12 pars for a gross 72. Runner-up was Star's Lito Tacujan, also with a net 66, while INQUIRER's Ernie Gonzales placed third with a net 67. Class B champion was Jun Diokno with a net 66, followed by Joel Palacios and Delfin Perez with identical net 70s. The top three finishers in Class C were Albert Garcia, 69; Diego Cagahastian, 69; and Jun Bautista, 73. Sam Poblete topped the guest division with a net 66, while Fil Sionil won the ladies title with an 88.

Laguna Inter-town basketball tilt

SINILOAN, Laguna—The Governor's Cup 3 Laguna Inter-town Basketball Tournament opened on April 23 with 21 teams in tow. Laguna Gov. Teresita S. Lazaro and Vice Gov. Edwin Olivares, together with Samsung Electronics General Sales Manager Jerry Cuary graced the opening ceremony of the tournament sponsored by Samsung Electronics. Also supporting the tournament are INGASCO, Addict Mobile, Jollibee, Chowking, Pepsi, Star Honda and Olivarez Town Plaza. Participating teams in the open category include San Pedro, Cabuyao, Calamba City, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa City, Binan, Mabitac and San Pablo City. Those who will play in the 6 ft and under category are Siniloan, Lumban, Pangil, Calamba City, Kalayaan, Cavinti, Magdalena, Calauan, Pagsanjan, Liliw, Los Baños, Bay, Biñan, San Pablo City, Mabitac, Alaminos and Sta. Maria.

Sollano-Gozo bout in Fistorama

"SAMSUNG'S Fistorama" today features an exciting ten round featherweight bout between JR Sollano and former top-rated Ricky Gozo. The fight was a supporting bout in a fight card promoted by Rex "Wakee" Salud at the New Gallera de Mandaue in Cebu. The event is aired every Saturday and Sunday in North America, Europe, Middle East, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Supported by Samsung, Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon, it is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9. The longest running local TV sports program "Golf Power Plus," featuring the elimination round of the Cantada Sports Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge, airs at 3 p.m.

FILWAY CHESS: GM Eugene Torre and Filway Marketing Inc. CEO/president Hector O. Tagaysay, Cebu City Sports Commission chair Jonathan Guardo and Fide webmaster director Toti Abundo Jr. make the ceremonial moves of the Filway-Time Life Visayas leg active chess championships at the SM City Cebu recently. Also shown are NCFP tournament chair Wilfredo Abalos, Filipino/US chess master Almario Marlon Bernardino Jr., IM Mark Paragua, GM Nelson Mariano II, Carlo Aquino and GM Joey Antonio Jr. Antonio won the tournament.

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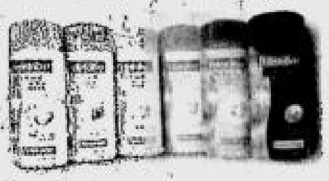

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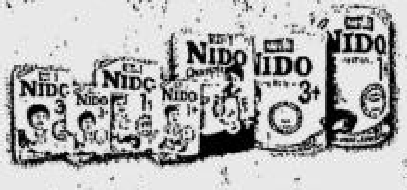

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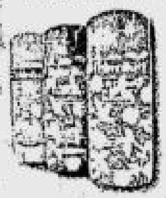

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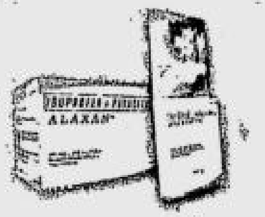

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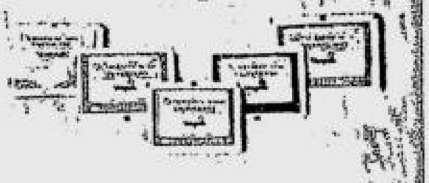

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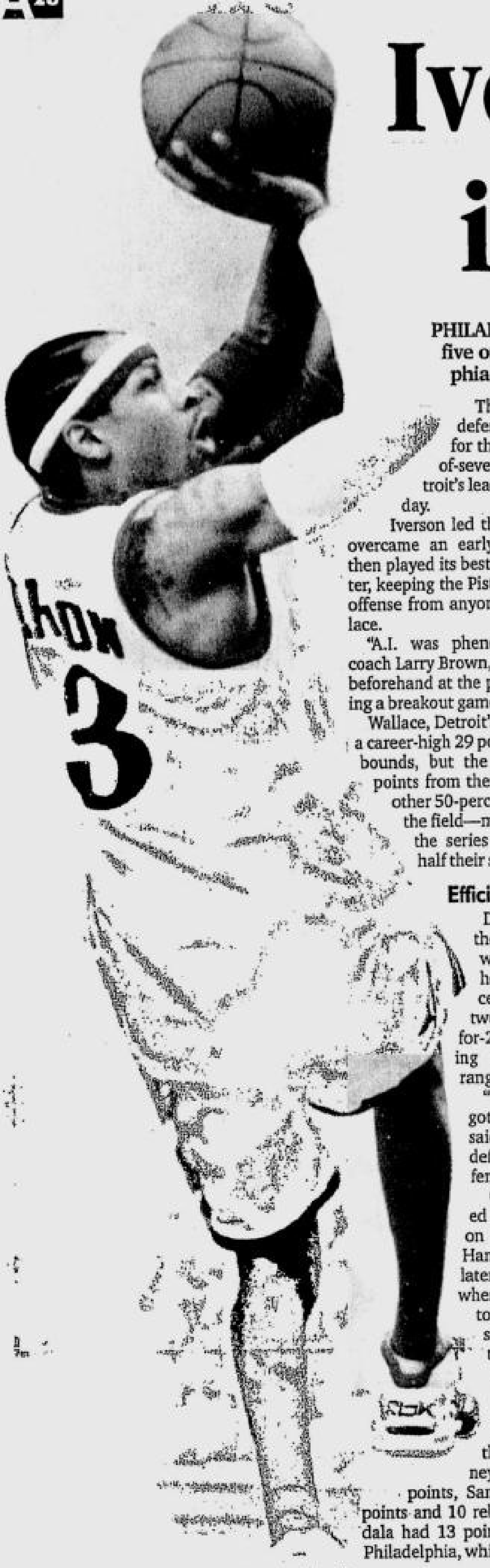
PROMO PERIOD May 1 to July 31, 2005

Iverson puts Sixers back in hunt; Suns pull away



PHILADELPHIA 76ers superstar Allen Iverson gets off an off-balanced shot against the Detroit Pistons. Iverson finished with 37 points as the 76ers got into the win column. AP

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 37 points and handed out five of his 15 assists in the fourth quarter to lead the Philadelphia 76ers past the Detroit Pistons 115-104 Friday night.

The Sixers defeated the defending NBA champions for the first time in the best-of-seven series, cutting Detroit's lead to 2-1. Game 4 is Sunday.

Iverson led the way as Philadelphia overcame an early 13-point deficit and then played its best ball in the fourth quarter, keeping the Pistons from getting much offense from anyone other than Ben Wallace.

"A.I. was phenomenal," said Pistons coach Larry Brown, who was apprehensive beforehand at the prospect of Iverson having a breakout game.

Wallace, Detroit's starting center, scored a career-high 29 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, but the Pistons got only two points from their reserves to offset another 50-percent shooting effort from the field—marking the third time in the series they've made at least half their shots.

Efficiency wasted

Despite that efficiency, the Pistons couldn't find a way to stop Iverson after holding him to 35-percent shooting in the first two games. He finished 15-for-26 from the field, including 2-for-4 from 3-point range.

"This is one game. We've got to feed off it," Iverson said. "We didn't just play defense, we played offense, too."

Chauncey Billups started as the primary defender on Iverson, and Richard Hamilton took over the job later in the game. But even when the Pistons managed to get the ball out of Iverson's hands, he was able to find open teammates who were able to knock down shots.

Chris Webber scored nine of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, Rodney Rogers added 15 points, Samuel Dalembert had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Andre Iguodala had 13 points and seven steals for Philadelphia, which shot 55 percent.

Suns shine

In Memphis, Tennessee, Amare Stoudemire scored 30 points, and the Phoenix Suns rolled over the Grizzlies, 110-90, for the franchise's first 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series.

A victory here Sunday would give the Suns a sweep of the opening-round Western Conference series.

Joe Johnson scored 20 points and reserve Jim Jackson added 17 for Phoenix. Shawn Marion added 14 points and 13 rebounds, Steve Nash had 13 points and eight assists.

Lorenzen Wright led Memphis with 14 points. Pau Gasol and Mike Miller had 13 apiece, and Shane Battier and Jason Williams scored 10 each.

Bigger opponents

The knock on the Suns despite their NBA-leading 62 victories in the regular season was that they couldn't handle physical play from bigger opponents, preferring to sprint up and down the floor.

The Grizzlies felt the time finally had arrived for the franchise's first playoff victory after seven straight losses. They thought they had only themselves to blame in losing Game 2 108-103 on Wednesday night and expected their frenzied fans to provide the edge the team lacked in Phoenix.

What they found out is that the Suns can push back pretty hard when they want without affecting the NBA's best offense.

Dramatic improvement

In Sacramento, California, Mike Bibby had 31 points and seven rebounds in a dramatic improvement on his last two performances, and the Kings got back in their first-round playoff series with a 116-104 triumph that cut the Seattle SuperSonics' lead to 2-1.

Kenny Thomas scored 22 points and Cuttino Mobley had 21—both career playoff highs—for the Kings, who rode the energy from their deafening sellout crowd to a 21-point lead in the first half. With Bibby leading the way, Sacramento coolly stayed ahead throughout a foul-filled second half, making 50 percent of its shots.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven series is Sunday night, with Game 5 back in Seattle on Tuesday.

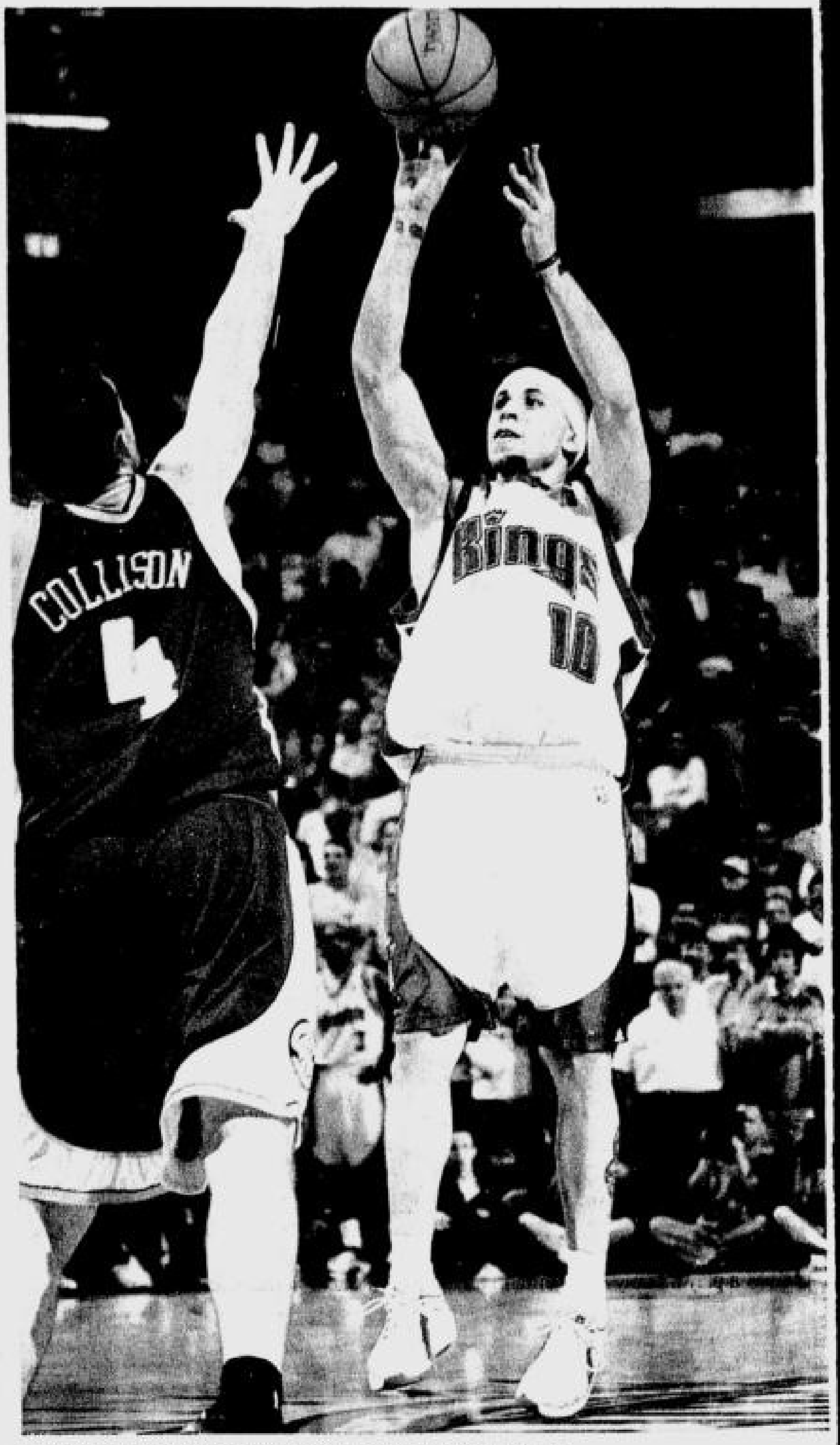
Ray Allen scored 33 points and Jerome James had 22 points and nine rebounds before fouling out in the final minutes of yet another surprising performance. But just as the Kings did in the series' first two games in Seattle, the Sonics fell far behind early and expended all their energy just trying to catch up.

Vaunted reputation

The Kings' playoff fortunes in this rebuilding season probably hang on Bibby, their point guard. But he didn't live up to his vaunted playoff reputation in Seattle, going 8-for-30 in the first two games—including a 1-for-16 performance that probably decided Game 1 in the Sonics' favor.

But Bibby made five of his first six shots in Game 3, and he rarely stopped attacking the basket. He scored eight points and ran Sacramento's offense with poise in the fourth quarter, finishing 11-for-21.

Meanwhile, Seattle missed its final 10 3-pointers. *AP*



MIKE Bibby finally takes charge for the Sacramento Kings.

NBA on TV

The continued coverage of the NBA playoffs for today and tomorrow are as follows:

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Phoenix vs. Memphis

Game 4—Tomorrow @ Memphis, 8 a.m. (Solar Sports)

San Antonio vs. Denver

Game 3—Today @ Denver, 10:30 a.m. (RPN 9)

Dallas vs. Houston

Game 4—Today @ Houston, 5:30 a.m. (Solar Sports)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Detroit vs. Philadelphia

Game 4—Tomorrow @ Philadelphia, 1 a.m. (RPN 9 delayed telecast at 1 p.m.)

Boston vs. Indiana

Game 4—Today 1 @ Indiana, 8 a.m. (RPN 9)

Chicago vs. Washington

Game 3—Today @ Washington 3 a.m. (Solar Sports delayed telecast at 1 p.m.)

Jackson, LA talk; Walker suspended

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss spoke this week with former Lakers coach Phil Jackson, reviving speculation the nine-time championship coach might return to guide the struggling team.

Jackson, 59, spoke with Buss Tuesday but not about the subject of coaching the National Basketball Association club, team spokesperson John Black said.

Since Jackson departed, and star center Shaquille O'Neal was traded to Miami, the Lakers have fallen from a perennial NBA Finals club to one that could not even reach the playoffs. Even the cross-town Clippers had a better record.

Jackson guided the Lakers to three titles after guiding the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls to six NBA crowns in the 1990s.

Jackson's agent, Todd Musburger, said the chances that his client would return to coaching are 51 percent.

"I'll move the needle to 51-49 in favor of coaching," Musburger said.

Jackson has been linked at times with possible jobs at New York, Portland and Cleveland. Cleveland fired coach Paul Silas and Portland ditched Maurice Cheeks during the regular season. Former Knicks coach Lenny Wilkens quit his post during the regular season.

Minnesota, which fired long-time coach Flip Saunders during the regular season, is also reportedly interested.

In New York, the league office announced that Boston's Antoine Walker will miss game four of the Celtics' first-round National Basketball Association playoff series against Indiana after being suspended by the league here Friday for grabbing a referee.

The veteran forward was banished after grabbing referee Tom Washington on the arm during a 99-76 loss Thursday at Indianapolis that gave the host Pacers a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven opening round series.

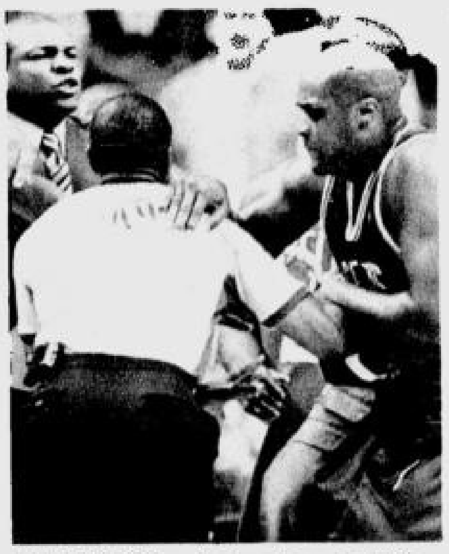
Walker will miss Saturday's game but could return for game five in Boston on Tuesday.

Walker was ejected after his second technical foul after a hard blow to Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal in the fourth quarter.

Walker grabbed Washington during the altercation, which also saw O'Neal push Walker and grab his jersey.

Celtics coach Doc Rivers tried to step in between Walker and Washington during the altercation.

O'Neal was fined $10,000 for his role in the incident. *AFP*



ANTOINE Walker, right, gets tangled with official Tom Washington. AP

Hopkins defends crown July 16

LAS VEGAS—Middleweight boxing champion Bernard Hopkins and undefeated challenger Jermain Taylor are one step closer to getting into the ring.

The two are scheduled to attend a press conference Tuesday in New York to formally announce the July 16 bout, which has been in negotiations for months.

The 40-year-old Hopkins, who has defended his title 20 times, last month gave Taylor 24 hours to accept a $1.5 million purse for the fight.

He later relented and increased the offer to $1.8 million, but the bout was still delayed in negotiations over terms for a possible rematch.

Taylor, a member of the 2000 US Olympic team, is undefeated in 23 fights and considered the best prospect among the middleweight challengers.

The fight is scheduled to be held at the MGM Grand hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

Last year, Hopkins defeated Golden Boy Oscar dela Hoya to cement his status as one of the best boxers in his division. *AP*

FG SILVER CUP

Organizers of the 10th PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup sign a memorandum of agreement on the staging of the classic horse race on May 8 at the Santa Ana Park. The signatories included (seated from left) Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, PCSO chair Sergio Valencia, PSCO general manager Rosario Iriarte and PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereñeta Jr. Witnessing the event are members of the PCSO racing committee.

Warsaw: Belgians advance

WARSAW—Belgians Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters stayed on course for a Warsaw title showdown after both came through their quarterfinal clashes on Friday.

Henin-Hardenne needed just 61 minutes to sweep aside fourth-seeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland to earn a place in the semifinals.

Her 6-1, 6-2 victory lined her up against unseeded Ana Ivanovic, who continued her impressive season by defeating sixth seed Nathalie Dechy of France, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Saturday's second semifinal will be between second seed Svetlana Kuznetsova and seventh seed Clijsters.

Kuznetsova overpowered Silvia Farina Elia, 6-3, 6-4, while Clijsters struggled with both a sore shoulder and a persistent opponent before seeing off fifth-seeded Russian Elena Bovina, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Playing in dry and warmer conditions after the chill of her opening match was a relief for Henin-Hardenne, and she was satisfied with her dominating performance.

"It was pretty hard conditions yesterday, but finally we can see the sun and it's getting warmer so it's easier to play better tennis," she said.

"I think I was very focused today. From the first point to the end I really concentrated on what I had to do; to be aggressive and not give her too much time because she likes to have time to organize her game."

Ivanovic, who beat third seed Vera Zvonareva in the previous round and US Open champion Kuznetsova recently in Miami, was the more consistent player, and her strong forehand also gave her an advantage over a sometimes erratic Dechy.

The 17-year-old had to show patience in the first set, as she failed to win four set points leading into the tiebreak. *AFP*

Els grabs five-stroke Asian Open cushion

SHANGHAI—Ernie Els fired a solid four-under-par 68 to extend his lead to five strokes in the third round of the $1.5 million Asian Open on Saturday.

The world No. 3 cooled off after his brilliant 62 on Friday but still improved to finish on 19-under 197 at the Tomson Shanghai Pudong Golf Club.

Britain's Simon Wakefield equaled the day's best score with a 66 to take sole possession of second place at 14 under.

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn was a further stroke off the pace in third, after a 68, while Frenchman Jean-Francois Lucquin's 69 left him at 11 under.

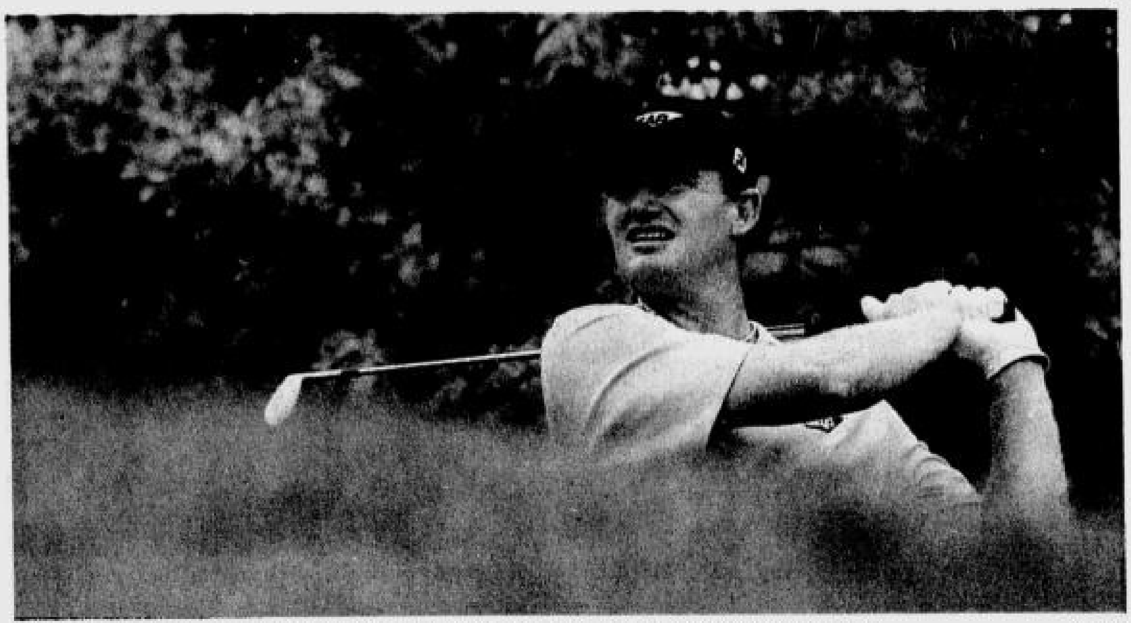
"I kept my concentration well and got over the bad spells," Els told reporters. "I was not as sharp as the second round but if I shoot something under 70 tomorrow it will be difficult to beat me."

The big South African began the day with a four-stroke advantage and never looked like relinquishing his lead, despite bogeying the fourth, ninth and 12th holes.

A six at the par-five ninth, where his drive found the water, particularly annoyed him, although he managed to sink a 20-foot putt for birdie at the next.

"I feel that to bogey a par five is a huge sin," said Els.

"But after making mistakes, I came back well and that kind of sums up the whole day." *Reuters*


ERNIE Els is bidding for his 21st victory on the European Tour and his 56th international title. REUTERS

Low-key Atwal claims Zurich lead, spotlight

AVONDALE, Louisiana—India's Arjun Atwal is trying to keep a low profile in the Zurich Classic. It won't be easy if he keeps playing this well.

"I don't think people know who I am and don't expect anything," Atwal said. "So even if I mess up, they are just going to say I wasn't expected to win. I'm just going out there and play my game and see if I can handle it or not."

The 32-year-old Atwal, a two-time winner on the PGA European Tour, shot a 4-under 69 in windy conditions Friday to finish the second round at 11-under 133. He had six birdies and two bogeys on the TPC of Louisiana, the Pete Dye-designed course in its first year as the tournament site after a 16-year run at English Turn.

JJ Henry (67) was a stroke back at 10 under.

"It was another kind of stress-free day to be honest with you," Henry said. "I feel real comfortable on this golf course. I like the way most of the holes fit. I'm driving the ball well, my ball striking has actually been great for the last couple of weeks, and my putter is finally catching up.

"I'm surprised at how low the cut is, 1 over. I mean, a golf course that nobody is familiar with. The wind blew probably steady for two days at 20-plus miles an hour."

Atwal, playing on a sponsor's exemption, lost a playoff early this month in the BellSouth Classic for his best finish of the year. Last season, he made only 12 cuts in 30 events and finished 146th on the money list with $486,052.

"Our baby was coming along," Atwal said. "We had no family in America at the time, so every time I missed a cut or was close to making a cut, I wasn't even thinking about the cut. I was thinking of going back to my wife and taking care of her. As soon as the baby came along, I started doing well again."

Chris DiMarco, playing in his first event since losing a playoff to Tiger Woods in the Masters, had a 71 to join Tim Clark (69) at 8 under. Lucas Glover (68) was 7 under, and defending champion Vijay Singh followed his opening 67 with a 71 to join long-hitting Hank Kuehne (69) and Richard S. Johnson (68) at 6 under.

DiMarco, tied for the lead after the first round, had an inconsistent round that included an eagle, four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

At 10 under heading to the par-5 18th, DiMarco hit his tee shot into the water to the right of the fairway and scrambled to make a double-bogey.

"I have to give that to lack of knowledge of the golf course," DiMarco said. "For some reason, I think that right side that you can get to that far bunker out there. I'm not long enough to get to that bunker. I tried to take a little more off than I can chew. I thought it was going to fly into the bunker and it didn't even get close." *AP*

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- 22100 Skateboard — ~~Reg. Price P1,386~~ Sale Price P850
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- Yang Yang 2000A Shuttle Cock — ~~Reg. Price P1,195~~ Sale Price P630
- Solex 11109/41JB In Line Skates — ~~Reg. Price P1,620~~ Sale Price P950
- Solex 11109/40JB In Line Skates — ~~Reg. Price P1,620~~ Sale Price P950
- Solex 11108/36JB In Line Skates — ~~Reg. Price P1,465~~ Sale Price P900
- Yang Yang SL-3 Shuttlecock — ~~Reg. Price P1,065~~ Sale Price P550

Promo period is from May 1 to May 31 of 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1218, Series of 2005.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, May 1, 2005

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9PM SABADO SABAGO!
ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		SOP Reload		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Search For A Star In A Million		Sunday Family Cinema			
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										ABCinema					
GMA 7		Love To Love			S-Files				Naks	Mel & Joey/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		WWE Experience		Smackdown		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace						Alamin Ang Diabetes	The Working President
IBC 13		Lifestyle	Nation's Peacekeeper	Amerika Atbp.		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		2004 Japan 9-Ball Festival				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV		WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Pride FC				Slamball	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	Jimmy Timmy Power Hour		Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Nip/ Tuck		Entertainment Tonight Weekend	
Studio 23			Stoplight TV	BYK 101	Hotwire TV	Top Gear	Game Plan	Nginig: The Hidden Files		Exposed		Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)		Fastone (11.15PM)	
AXN							Hollywood's Greatest Stunts			The Amazing Race 7		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Lost		The Contender	
Star World		The Apprentice			Growing Up Gotti	Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Wild Card		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		The Office		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming		World News	MainSail	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week		Human Edge	Crittercam Wildtech Adventure	Jungle Week		Deep Jungle:Monster In The Forest/Hot Science From New Zealand		Deep Jungle:New Frontiers		Deep Jungle:The Beast Within				Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports			NBA Action	Kotv Magazine	WTA Dubai Duty Free Women's Open '05				GWS Ep.17-2005	Euro Med Storm Int'l. Tenpin Bowling				NBA Playoffs 1st rd.					NBA TV Daily
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special 101 Most Shocking Moments						Style Star	You're Invited
HBO			Tommy Boy (3:20 PM)			The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers (5:05PM)						Catch Me If You Can					Darkness Falls (10:20PM)		Old School (11:45PM)
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Mysteries	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Megas XLR	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename: Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
ESPN								Boxing Series Friday Night Fights										Eng. Premier Football League 04/05	
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina, The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Reality Of Love (2:25PM)			Deadfall (4:15PM)				Undercover Lover			Alien Hunter			Snakehead Terror			Ghosts Of Mississippi		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Rides		Extreme Machines		Hour Asia				Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
Sports Plus		Fedex Kinko's Classic Day2					Inside the PGA	World Poker Tour Ep.14 Champs				Italia Serie A		Get A Grip		Zurich Classic of New Orleans Day3			
NBN		Value Vision		Kabataan News Network	Family Rosary Crusade	Concert at the Park		Kamao		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Battle Of Royale		To Be Announced					Unlimited Diving

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England, US trips at stake in battle of club champs

THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME chance to witness two of the world's biggest tournaments as a VIP are in store for the winners of the inaugural National Tournament of Club Champions presented by INQUIRER Golf and HSBC on May 24-29 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The match play tourney gathers the men's and ladies champions from about 40 clubs who will compete for the top awards promising an unforgettable experience for the winners.

HSBC will send the winners as VIPs to two pro events it sponsors this season. The ladies champion goes to the Women's World Match Play Championships in New Jersey in June while the men's titlist will be a special guest of the 2005 HSBC World Match Play Championship in England this September.

"While it is easy to buy tickets to watch these tournaments, being a VIP guest given greenside seats is something else," said tournament director Andy Dumlao.

Being staged in cooperation with the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines, the tourney also has Omega as a major sponsor. Philippines Airlines is the official carrier, Titleist the official ball, and Microtel the official hotel.

PAL is giving 50 percent discount on fares for entries from the south. Titleist, through Dynamic Sports Corp., will give qualifying round survivors on May 24 a box of the best-selling Pro-V1 Balata balls each.

Entries may call Ching dela Cruz at 8978808 local 259 for inquiries.

MEMBERS of the Tagaytay team whoop it up on the 10th green of the Midlands course after pulling off the victory. REM ZAMORA

LADIES FED LEAGUE

Tagaytay pulls off shocker

By Jong Arcano

LINNEL de Villa and Farah Imperial rattled off three straight wins, the last one in a nerve-wracking playoff that decided it all as Tagaytay Highlands shocked Sta. Elena in their home-and-away showdown for the Ladies Federation Golf League recently.

Falling 1-2 behind after their visit to Sta. Elena with the lone point won by De Villa-Imperial, Tagaytay needed no less than a strong performance at their home course the next day to turn things around.

And as they had been doing all tournament long, Linnel and Farah delivered when it mattered most.

They prevailed in their favorite foursomes format to secure the first of two points Tagaytay needed to forge the playoff, a scenario that came true when Linnel's younger sister Debbie teamed up with Dionne Cu for the high-low point.

Regulation play ended at 3-3 after Maline Flores and Veronica Veloso lost the aggregate to Sta. Elena's Olive Reyes and Angie Co. As expected, Tagaytay fielded De Villa and Imperial for the playoff while Sta. Elena went for Rio Co and Candice Yulo.

Officials then picked the high-low format in the raffle box.

As tension gripped the 10th tee-box where the playoff was held, both De Villa and Imperial's drives found the fairway. Taking Sta. Elena's turn to hit, Rio Co was the first to blink after she hooked her drive into the hazard and Candice Yulo found the fairway bunker.

Imperial sparked a wild celebration by the Tagaytay team when she chipped close to the flag to ensure a par as De Villa made bogey to beat their playoff foes. Co took a double bogey after taking a penalty drop while Yulo bogeyed.

"It's just unbelievable. It's a sports story made in heaven with all the drama, thrill and a cliffhanger ending as icing," said Tagaytay team captain Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, who formed the team only a week before the league started.

At Sta. Elena the previous day, Vinice Godio-Candice Yulo won in high-low and Olive Reyes-Angie Co prevailed in aggregate for the home team that made up for the lone point salvaged by De Villa and Imperial again in the alternate shots.

The tourney, organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc., is sponsored by Prudential Bank, Justine Sebastian/Cathay Land Inc., Citibank NA and Schering Plough-Coppertone.

ABEGAIL Arevalo and Ramos (holding flag) with other members of the team that will represent the Philippines in the coming Junior World golf championships in San Diego, California. Standing (from left) are Justin Dy, Tonton Arevalo, Janella Buen, Lois Kaye Go, Ryan Monsalve and Miggy Yee and kneeling (from left) are Dana Gonzales, Princess Superal and Mia Legaspi.

Arevalo leads 16 kids to Junior World golf

SIXTEEN kids, led by promising Abegail Arevalo and AR Ramos, will fly to the United States in July to represent Team Philippines in the 2005 Junior World golf championships in San Diego.

Ramos shot a four-under 56 at the exclusive Country Club course of the Riviera for a 108-hole 348 total and a 21-shot victory over Tonton Arevalo (62-369), who like the first four placers of three other divisions, will play in the Junior World.

Tonton Arevalo led the Junior World's Class E event after the first round last year only to have his golf set stolen at Singing Hills on the eve of the second round.

Abegail, Tonton's younger sister, won girl's Class F pulling away after shooting a 67 for a 408 tally and an 18-stroke victory over joint second placers Lois Kaye Go and Janella Buen.

The youngest of the Arevalo siblings will be shooting to better a fourth-place finish in the 2004 event at the Presidio, taking a 10-tournament winning streak to the US.

Princess Mary Superal topped Girl's Class E with ease, a final round 65 giving her a 398 and a whopping 75- stroke win over Dana Gonzales, even as Ryan Monsalve won boy's Class F with a 552 total.

Yee, De Villa off to Australia for Mastercard Jr Masters

MIKO Yee and Debbie de Villa left yesterday for Perth, Australia, to compete in the 2005 MasterCard Junior Masters slated May 3-6 at the Vines Resort & Country Club.

After earning slots in last week's Junior World qualifying, Yee and De Villa will be training their guns on an international victory when they join an international field carrying the colors of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Jungolf president Raoul Lachica said the Australia stints kicks off a series of overseas outings for the country's top jungolfers, including the Asia-Pacific championships in Korea late this month and the Junior World in San Diego, California in July.

"The kids have shown a lot of promise in the first few legs of the summer circuit and hopefully we can add more to the one earlier won by Miguel Tabuena in Thailand last month," said Lachica.

Meanwhile, the Samsung Jungolf Tour also supported by Philippine Airlines as the official carrier and Unilever resumes tomorrow with the Tagaytay Midlands hosting the next leg with Riviera.

Tagaytay generously allowed the holding of the jungolf leg despite the recent announcement that tomorrow is an official non-working holiday since it was already scheduled.

"We're grateful to the management of Tagaytay and Riviera for allowing the kids to play despite the sudden holiday," Lachica said.

More than 70 players have signed for the 54-hole competitions in the following age-classifications, Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D. The younger Class E and Class F will play at the Riviera executive course.

The first leg was held at Malarayat, then the series went to Camp John Hay in Baguio and Tat Filipinas course before the two-week Junior World qualifying at Canlubang and Sherwood Hills.

Also accompanying Yee, who placed second to Tonton Asistio in boys Class A, and de Villa, who wound up fourth in girls Class B last week, is swing coach Bong Lopez.

DEBBIE de Villa PDI FILE PHOTO

Philam opens Intervillage 4-peat bid

PHILAM Homes parades the same team that won three straight titles in the Nokia Intervillage golf championship as it tries to extend its domination of the annual series among golfing villages in the metropolis at the start of the north sector tournament tomorrow at the Forest Hills Golf Club in Antipolo.

Skippered by Jun Fontanilla, the Philam golfers set out as the heavy favorite to clinch one of the three berths staked in the event exclusively for villages in Quezon City.

That includes former champion Corinthian, which will be led by Edgar See, and Don Enrique Heights, to be led by team captain Ato Santos. The likes of Filinvest I, White Plains, Xavierville, La Vista and Acropolis are raring to showcase their wares in the event sponsored by telecommunications giant Nokia.

Also on tap in the first 18 holes of the 36-hole tournament, backed by 357 Boracay, BJ Marthel International, Inc., Pisanti golf shirts and TCL Sun, Inc., is the individual competition with last year's champions Chino Raymundo of La Vista and Philam's Bayani Fontanilla Jr. leading groups I and 2, respectively.

Meantime, Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club in Talisay, Batangas, is offering a free membership share for a hole-in-one feat.

To quote Chot

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT was good for Chot Reyes to deny having allegedly said that winning both the Seaba and SEA Games basketball titles this year is a foregone conclusion. The quote wrongly attributed to him appeared in the INQUIRER on Thursday.

"I want to correct that statement attributed to me," Chot Reyes said in a statement that came out in this paper on Friday. "I never said the titles in those tournaments are in the bag or anything to that effect; not at all."

You've got to give it to Chot, who heads the coaching staff of both teams bound for the Seaba and SEA Games competitions.

Known as a no-nonsense coach, Chot tells it as he sees it. He calls black black, white white. He calls a spade a spade.

I like people who are like that. They lay down their cards on the table. No hidden agenda. Motives, ill or otherwise, are anathema to them.

I was told Chot was fuming when he read the story that had misquoted him, and I couldn't blame him. It made him sound infallible. Not even Phil Jackson, or Pat Riley, or even Red Auerbach had ever been quoted as saying they were the best coaches of their time. Yet, if they did, each would have been justified.

The denial of Chot Reyes was met with applause. Just right. People know him as straightforward. Had he remained silent, he might lose the respect of many of his fans, not to mention his peers.

The quote pictured Chot as careless, if not downright reckless.

Imagine if Larry Brown had said his NBA squad would steamroller the opposition in the 2004 Athens Olympiad. With what happened to his boys-beaten black and blue in a bizarre outing for the world's supposed best practitioners of the game-Brown might have lost even the respect of Commissioner Stern even before he could set foot on American soil again.

Imagine, too, if China, because it had Yao Ming in its lineup, had boasted about China's absoluteness of winning the basketball gold in the 2002 Busan Asian Games. With its defeat in the hands of South Korea in the finals, what face would China's coaching staff have had to show to the masses of Chinese people when they got home?

Nobody says about the exactness of things. Even scientists falter.

You don't say you will surely win a game, much more a title, simply because you believe you have the best equipment to do it.

Delusion, they say it.

Too cocky, others term it.

Reckless imprudence, lawyers call it.

So, had Chot Reyes not clarified matters, it would have appeared success had gone to his head ahead of humility. That because he had been given blanket authority to oversee preparations for our Seaba and SEA Games campaigns, he was, from hereon, to think and act and, yes, talk as if winning was sure as day replaces night. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Without Chot's clarification, it would have appeared the power entrusted him might have already contaminated his beliefs, blinded his vision.

Humility resides in those who readily accept blame even if others actually did the damage.

The Chot Reyes I know has lots of that, despite his being temperamental at times. Yes, he is prone to anger, but isn't anger temporary madness?

Intellect, said Arthur Schopenhauer, is invisible to the man who has none.

It is precisely for that reason why Chot Reyes, wittingly or unwittingly, had chosen not to ignore that misquote attributed to him.

It made him all the more visible even to those whose intellect is suspect.

* * *

FASTBREAK. My family condoles with the relatives left behind by Prudencio Almonguera, whose body lies at the residence of Ritaflor Baldonado in Dayao, Roxas City. To the deceased's children Nelson and Ling Almonguera, Teresita dela Torre, Norberto, Vicente, Ernesto, Marilyn Besana and Edilberto, other in-laws and grandchildren including Vincent, sympathies also go to them from Dante and Ching Fernandez of Marikina City, Nonong and Astrid Fernandez of Glan, Austria, Diding Mosher of Phoenix, Arizona, and Laguna-born Nono Cosio.

Bautista to fight tough Mexican

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

TEENAGE sensation Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista slugs it out with Mexican Gilbert Bolanos on June 4 in what promises to be the biggest boxing event of the year in Cebu.

The fight, which was originally scheduled last month at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, will put Bautista to the test against a formidable knockout artist.

A native of Ciudad Obregon in Mexico, Bolanos has won 10 of 19 fights all inside the distance and is regarded as a dangerous foe.

Bautista will be coming into the fight fresh from a victory over the tough Vuyisile Bebe of Africa, but fight promoter Samson Gello-ani believes that the June 4 bout will not last the full 12 rounds.

Lapu-Lapu City's "Kadaugan sa Mactan" last Wednesday played host to the OPBF title defense of Randy Suico and a few days later, the Mandaue City Sports Commission launched the WBF World Championship fight of Dindo Castanares.

Bautista, the reigning WBO Aspac bantamweight champion, trains at Freddie Roach's Wild Card gym in Los Angeles.

BOLANOS out to shatter Bautista's sterling reputation.

Tuñacao eyes WBO title in Puerto Rico

NOEL "The Eel" Tuñacao will try to attempt to become the next Filipino world champion as he takes on World Boxing Organization strawweight titlist Ivan Calderon in a 12-round bout today at the Coliseo Jose Miguel Agrelot in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Tuñacao, accompanied by international matchmaker Leonil Lazarito, arrived in Puerto Rico Wednesday evening and appeared very weak after the 28-hour flight and most likely in his effort to lose weight in order to make the 105-lb regulatory limit.

On Thursday, Tuñacao did a 10-minute run and limbered up at the Wilfredo Gomez Arena in Guaynabo before proceeding to the medical examinations sanctioned by the Comision De Boxeo Professional.

Greg Chavez, who operates a boxing gym in Opao, Mandaue City, said Tuñacao showed up at his gym two weeks prior to his trip to make his final preparations.

Tuñacao, however, will have to dish out an earth-shaking performance in order to beat a shifty and well-conditioned Calderon, who is undefeated in 21 fights with 4 KO's.

In Tuñacao's last major fight, he was blasted out by Indon Muhammad Rachman in two rounds on Dec. 16, 2003 in an IBF eliminator scheduled for 12-rounds.

Tuñacao's manager Joy Ouano, through his benefactor Terry Carter, said yesterday his boxer has not been showing up in the gym to train. Reports from GAB-Cagayan office said that Tuñacao saw action in Bukidnon last month, beating Demmy Bracuzo by unanimous decision.

Calderon will be making the fifth defense of the title he won in 2003 over Eduardo Marquez. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Castro snares bronze medal

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT Godfrey Castro finished his bout fresh after smashing his rival's nose but still came out the loser in their light flyweight semifinals encounter at the Ahmet Comert International Boxing Championships Wednesday night in Istanbul, Turkey.

The 20-year-old Castro, knowing fully well that his Team Philippines has been the victim of questionable bout scoring, even tagged Jarsenbayev Mirat of Kazakhstan to mandatory standing eight counts in the second and third rounds only to be handed a 27-41 loss.

"*Walang kuwenta ang boxing dito* (The boxing here is no good)," Team Philippines coach Boy Velasco told Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez in an overseas call.

With the loss, Castro settled for the bronze medal—a pitiful consolation for the six-man Philippine team.

The hosts, which fielded in five teams in this world-ranking event which attracted 181 men and 127 women boxers, went on to bag four gold medals, the same number won by Azerbajian. Kazakhstan finished with two golds, including that of Mirat, and Ukraine had one.

"Never again," declared Coach Velasco which prompted Lopez to draft a letter of protest addressed to AIBA president Anwar Chowdhry.

Five other Team Philippines members—bantamweight Joan Tipon, lightweight Genebert Basadre, flyweight Warlito Parrenas, light welterweight Mark Jason Melligen and welterweight Reynaldo Galido—lost their bouts on hairline margins.

Perena, Cua make finals

WOMAN National Master Catherine Perena and Shercila Cua of Caloocan City and Enerose Magno of San Carlos City, Pangasinan, scored 6.5 points apiece in the eighth and penultimate round yesterday to share the lead in the semifinals of the 2005 National standard chess championship (women) at the Multi-Purpose Hall (5th floor), Marketplace shopping mall in Gen. Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City.

The trio assured themselves of tickets to the grand finals which start on June 3. They will join seeded players WIM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, WIM Beverly Mendoza, WNM Loreshyl Cuizon and 14-year-old WNM Aices Salvador.

Magno and Perena drew after 16 moves while Cua and Geneline De Ramos also halved the point in 21 moves. De Ramos has 6.0 points and shares 4th-8th places. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Sutter's Wealth 2. Money for Shelltex 3. High Class

Race 2—1. Golden Harry 2. Valiente 3. Quant Je Puis/Holy Smoke 4. Lord Brian

Race 3—1. Coromell 2. Hyperbid 3. Master Ijhay

Race 4—1. Manila's Gem/Golden Number 2. Lucky Joe 3. Thor Simba 4. Harry Peak 5. Red Strike

Race 5—1. Order of Merit/Doctor Steve 2. Fighter 3. War Bird 4. Calvin's Magic

Race 6—1. Toril 2. Guad 3. Windlass

Race 7—1. Golden Fantasy 2. Apex 3. Itz Me Dahlin 4. Fille D Honneur 5. Xtreme Heat

Race 8—1. Khan Caloo 2. Wild Orchid 3. Mighty Mare

Race 9—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Candon's Pride 3. God Is Good 4. Miltied Forever/Sgt. Marangal

Race 10—1. La Española 2. Sniper 3. Etonasiya 4. Rule By Right

Race 11—1. Western Dancer 2. Cash McCall 3. Arbiter 4. Macho Guwapito

Race 12—1. Close Account 2. Bashful Lady 3. Patago 4. Feng Shui 5. Princess Sarah 6. Millennium Man

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DAY 1 : May 25, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Nick Fontanilla
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research

8:00 – 9:30 Registration/ Networking/ Morning Coffee

9:30 – 10:15 Opening Ceremonies
Keynote address: **Mr. Roberto De Ocampo***
President, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)

10:15- 11:15 Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy
A presentation on the business philosophies surrounding extreme marketing that have maximized marketing potentials in a challenging convergent environment aptly applied to the Asian Region as well as the local scenarios.

Speaker: **Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio**
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies, President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

11:15- 12:15 Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: **Mr. Mark Yambot**
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Lunch Break

1:30 – 1:45 Ice Breaker

1:45 – 2:45 Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain
Proven local brand strategic applications in the pharmaceutical business that challenge global market leaders and players in creating ideal synergies for a convergent market.

Speaker: **Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito**
President, United Laboratories Group

2:45 – 3:45 Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums
Guiding principles in braving the battle against big brothers in the real estate business despite the threatening and unstable socio-economic scenarios affecting business growth.

Speaker: **Mr. Luke Tan**
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

3:45 – 4:00 Break

4:00 – 5:00 Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events
Creative marketing executions that enliven the palette of consumers using convergent applications of events marketing thus bringing product promotion to extremely challenging standards.

Speaker: **Mr. Christophe Bezu**
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

5:00 – 5:15 Recap by Session Chair

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Karen De Asis
Marketing Director, De La Salle Graduate School of Business
Marketing Consultant

8:00 – 9:00 Networking Coffee

9:00 – 10:00 Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru
A discussion on strategic principles of extreme marketing as presented by the world-renowned Hermawan Katajaya.

Speaker: **Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya**
President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

10:00- 11:00 Session Seven:
The Telecommunications Industry Revealed: Telecommunications Convergence: Challenge to the Extreme!
Current trends and future strategic directions of the highly evolving telecommunications industry amidst the challenge of simultaneous product and market convergence.

Speaker: To be announced

11:00- 12:00 Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth
A closer look at the "must haves" in dealing with the challenges of convergence in marketing for businesses to thrive and achieve sustainable growth.

Speaker: **Mr. Gavin Coombes**
Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Lunch Break

1:00– 1:15 Ice Breaker 2

1:15 – 1:30 Agora Awards Launch / Other PMA Activities

1:30 – 2:30 Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!
Revelations in the bullet-speed growth of the retail industry and the magnetic attraction of a converging business to a market mix of unique styles but common interests.

Speaker: **Ms. Grace Magno**
Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

2:30- 3:30 Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing
Non-traditional rules applied to traditionally common practices that have created raves in the banking sector.

Speaker: **Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza**
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 4:30 Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence
Strategic partnering innovations that unify media creativity and marketing excellence gearing to meet the challenge of convergence.

Speaker: **Mr. Nicanor Gabunada**
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

4:30 – 5:15 Session Twelve:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor
A compilation of the interesting facets of humor in advertising that has sent light messages to the market but delivered solid bottom results to target sales.

Speaker: **Mr. Joselito Ortega**
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

5:15 – 5:45 Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence
A presentation of ingenuous approaches for business revivals and growth in a converging market.

Speaker: **Mr. Jose Jesus Roces**
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

5:45 – 6:00 Recap by Session Chair

For full programme schedule and other details:

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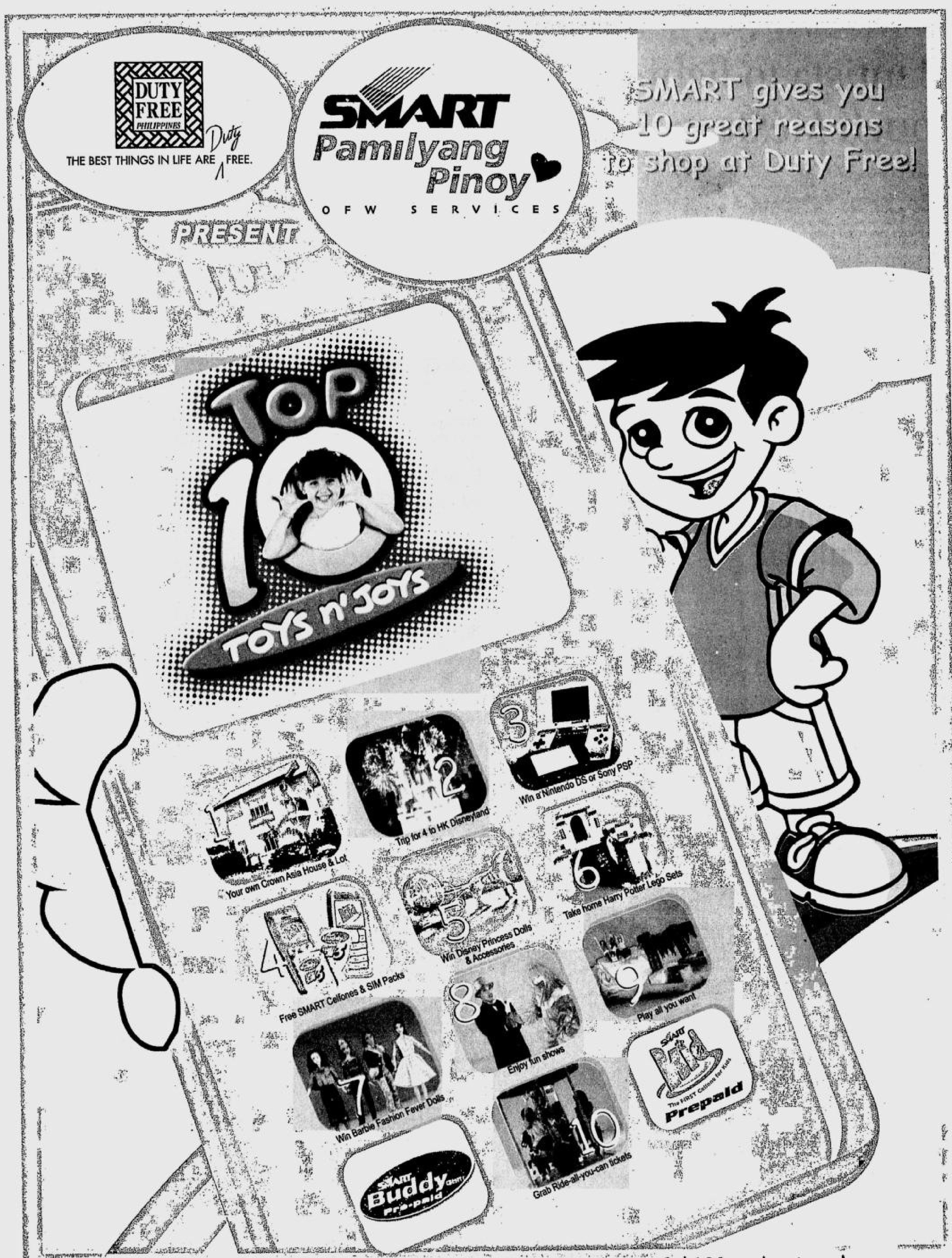
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2 Trip for 4 to HK Disneyland
3 Win a Nintendo DS or Sony PSP
4 Free SMART Celfones & SIM Packs
5 Win Disney Princess Dolls & Accessories
6 Take home Harry Potter Lego Sets
7 Win Barbie Fashion Fever Dolls
8 Enjoy fun shows
9 Play all you want
10 Grab Ride-all-you-can tickets
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
SMART Kid The FIRST Celfone for Kids Prepaid

Buy a SMART Prepaid phone kit with a minimum purchase of $100 and get a chance to win your dream home and a trip to Disneyland. Plus, SMART celfones in the pick-a-prize!

Pasalubong shopping just got more exciting, thanks to Top 10 Toys N' Joys promo from SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and Duty Free! Get a chance to win a Crown Asia house and lot and a trip for 4 to Hong Kong Disneyland in the raffle draw. Plus, tons of toys and SMART premium items up for grabs! That's more good reasons to shop smart at Duty Free! So what are you waiting for? Shop and win with SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and Duty Free now!

PROMO SCHEME 1 INSTANT PRIZE

All arriving passengers at the NAIA Terminals 1 and 2 shall each be given a TRAVEL MAGAZINE (c/o Smart) containing information about the promo.

A child who arrives at the Fiestamall with a traveler/balikbayan companion shall be given an instant gift for bringing the traveler to Duty Free. To claim the gift, traveler must present passport and shopping card to the promo booth and register child's name (limited to one child per shopping card).

PROMO SCHEME 2 PICK-A-PRIZE

For a minimum purchase of $250, a customer gets a chance to "pick a prize" upon presentation of shopping card and receipts.
Receipt/s must bear the shopping card number and name of the registered traveler and purchases should be made within the same day. (Customer can only draw a prize once)

For questions, you may call SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or *888 on your cellphone.

PROMO SCHEME 3 RAFFLE

Mechanics:
1. All qualified travelers pursuant to the existing laws (Regular Filipino Traveler, OFW, Balikbayans and Foreign Individual Traveler) may avail of the promo.
2. For every $250 worth of purchase, a customer is entitled to one raffle coupon upon presentation of shopping card and receipts. Receipt/s must bear the shopping card number and name of the registered traveler and purchases should be made within the same day.
3. Customers with purchases of at least $100 will also be entitled to a raffle coupon if they buy a Smart phonekit or a Simpack from the Smart booth located at the Atrium and register in Smart Pamilyang Pinoy. They should also present their shopping cards and receipts bearing the name of the registered traveler.
4. The raffle coupons should be filled up completely and dropped at the designated drop box. Customers must keep their raffle claim stubs.
5. Promo period is from April 23 to June 30, 2005 and is valid only at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall.
6. Raffle Draw will be on July 17, 2005 at 3PM, Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall, Atrium Lobby.
7. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she will get the bigger prize. Prizes are tax-paid and transferable but not convertible to cash.
8. Winners will be notified by registered mail and announced in leading national daily newspapers. Prizes may be claimed at the Marketing Department, Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall upon presentation of valid IDs.
9. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.
10. Employees of Duty Free Philippines, Crown Asia, PC&V, Smart Communications Inc., Ace Saatchi & Saatchi and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not allowed to join the promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-229, Series of 2005

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Coke, Jollibee pull out ads from 'The Buzz' and 'S-Files'

/A2-2

WHAT'S INSIDE

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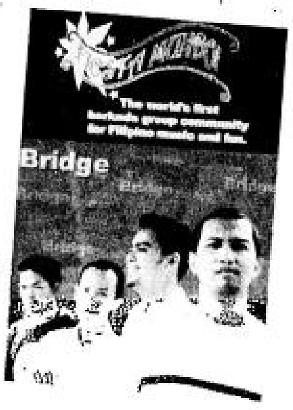
- GMA 7 charges ABS-CBN with copyright infringement /A2-4
- Case vs 'Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba!' dismissed /A2-7
- A doggone world for Orlando Bloom and Paris Hilton /A3-1
- Review: 'Can This Be Love' /A4-1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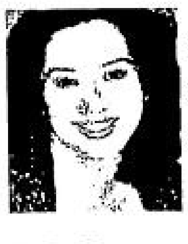

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Through the years, Dermclinic has been dedicated in providing customer satisfaction via rendering professional dermatological services and delivering high quality products.

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Coke, Jollibee, Greenwich pull out of 2 talk shows

By Margie Quimpo-Espino
Business Features Editor

COKE, Jollibee and Greenwich have pulled out ads from top TV showbiz talk shows "The Buzz" and "S-Files."

The move was in response to a call of the country's leading advertising agency for wholesome and responsible media content.

McCann Erickson Phils. Inc. early this week asked its clients to cancel placements in the two Sunday shows, which have aired sex videos purportedly made by popular movie or television stars.

The three advertisers were the first to heed the call. Thus McCann Erickson sent a strong message to the shows' network producers, ABS-CBN Channel 2 ("The Buzz") and GMA Channel 7 ("S Files"): Shape up or prepare to get hit where it hurts most—advertising revenues.

McCann counts in its roster some of the country's biggest advertisers—Globe Telecom, Coke, Jollibee, Greenwich, Johnson & Johnson and Nestlé.

Very concerned

"We have ordered the temporary cancellation of our ads until they stop showing those videos. We are very, very concerned," said Inez Reyes, Jollibee Foods Corp.'s head of marketing. "It's our responsibility to the country."

Coke ordered McCann to "take out these programs from our TV plan."

Said Jose Baylon, public affairs and communications director of The Coca-Cola Export Corporation: "The Coca-Cola Company always adheres to good morals in the conduct of its business. As in similar situations in the past, we have always been guided by the importance of protecting the image of our brands by not being associated with TV programs that are offensive to human dignity."

"We endorsed to our clients the temporary cancellation of support for these talk shows," Patricia Arches, president of McCann Erickson, told the INQUIRER. "We felt it was our responsibility as an advertising agency to advise our clients that their brands should not be associated with programs that are offensive and not respectful of people's sensitivities."

GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon admitted there was "one-minute worth of ads" that pulled out during the "S-Files" April 23 episode.

McCann concedes that their clients' ad spots will not make a dent in the advertising load of the shows (*see related story*) but points out that the pullout of three big firms spelled a moral victory.

"Yes it's a numbers' game but there are more important issues here. We have to stop showing those kinds of material," said Reyes of Jollibee, who pointed out that the shows are shown on prime time and are watched by kids.

Gray area

The bulk of the talk shows' advertisers will continue with their ad placements.

Unilever Phils., a major advertiser in both talk shows, and who is among the top 10 ad spenders in the country, said it would continue to place ads in talk shows as "it is not our job" to watch their content.

Ed Sunico, Unilever's country communications manager, told the INQUIRER that the company's primary concern was ratings.

"Our decision to place ads on a program will depend on viewership," Sunico said. By nature, talk shows are controversial, which is what the viewers are after."

He added: "Having a say in program content is a gray area although we influence it in a way with ad support. Content is the [responsibility] of the MTRCB."

J & J Phils. President Grace Castano issued this statement to the INQUIRER: "We have not pulled out any placement ads from the shows mentioned. However we are supporting McCann's drive to improve program content as a responsible corporate citizen. In fairness to the producers we wish to allow them the opportunity to review the content of their shows."

Nestlé Philippines Inc.'s director for communications Pedro Dy-Liacco said they have not pulled out ads, either, but have made clear their concern about content quality, via their advertising agency, Optimedia.

Temporary

McCann's call for a temporary pull-out of ads from "The Buzz" and "S-Files" was prompted by a position paper prepared by director Jose Javier Reyes, and signed by 136 media personalities against the "offensive" talk shows.

"We wanted to support the position of the artists, many of whom are our talents" Arches said.

RICHARD Gomez, Paolo Bediones and Joey Marquez, hosts of 'S-Files'

Move was a response to call for responsible media content

ED Sunico

PATRICIA Arches

Starcom, another leading advertising agency, said it has succeeded in "influencing" the television programmers to "tone down" their content. Managing director Lizelle Maralag said her company fully supports the call for responsible programming, but that they prefer to take the dialog route.

"I've been in constant discussion with Channels 2 and 7. I've seen changes happening, It's [an approach that] has worked for us," she said. Only if more sober means have been exhausted would her firm consider "other options," Maralag added.

Starcom's big clients include P & G, the Gokongwei companies, Monde Nissin, SMC.

Ongoing war

There has been an ongoing network war between Channel 2 and 7 over the past few months. One network shows or insinuates a sex video allegedly featuring a talent of the other network, and the other network retaliates in kind.

McCann, considered in the industry as a "guardian of responsible programming," has been calling on industry to work together to improve the standards and quality of local shows. This started two years ago when they did an analysis of noontime shows, and cited unsavory language and sexual overtones in the content. Producers had to initiate changes after McCann's big advertisers asked for it.

While the ad exec admitted that some agencies have a hard time justifying to their clients big ad placements in good shows that do not have the ratings, she said there has to be a conscious effort by the industry to help uplift media content.

(Officers of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines, and the AdBoard met with leaders of the Professional Artists Management Inc. on Thursday evening to discuss the sex video issue. See related story)

The word from Pana, 4 As and AdBoard

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ON Thursday night, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) and the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4 As), as well as leaders of the two groups' umbrella organization, the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), met with the Professional Artist Managers Inc. (Pami).

Main agenda was the sex-video scandals on TV talk shows.

The advertisers were led by AdBoard chair Raul S. Alvarez, AdBoard executive director Oscar Valenzuela, Pana president Maria Belen Fernando, Pana board secretary Atty. Junie Lutian, Pana management consultant Enrique Estrada, 4 As chair Susan Dimacali, and 4 As president Mitos Camahort.

Pami was represented by its president June Torrejon-Rufino and founding members Shirley Kuan-Saldias and Girlie Rodis.

The advertisers emerged from the meeting with Pami "equipped with more information" on the issue, Fernando told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Pana is planning to "pass on the information we've gathered to our 310 members so that they may take action as they deem appropriate," Fernando said.

She said the AdBoard adheres to a Code of Ethics.

"We have a clear-cut system that allows us to regulate ourselves," she said. "It works and has been in effect for 30 years."

Fernando described the process: "Before an ad is aired, a panel reviews it—like what the MTRCB [Movie and Television Review and Classification Board] does."

If the AdBoard receives a complaint from the public about an "offensive" commercial, it can be reviewed in a "hearing" presided by its officials.

And if the ad is found in violation of the code, it can be pulled out.

She told Pami that the AdBoard's policing powers apply only to ad content.

"We cannot regulate the content of TV shows," she said. "That's the MTRCB's job ."

Fernando suggested that Pami come up with its own Code of Ethics.

Meanwhile, she said, they are also conferring with the networks soon.

"Sad," is how Dimacali of 4 As described the TV landscape.

This was seconded by her colleague, Camahort, who said in the group's statement: "[We] are concerned . . ."

As a concrete step, Camahort added, they are setting meetings with media and government institutions to ensure that their ads "thrive in an environment consistent with the promotion of positive values."

In the groups' statement, AdBoard chair Alvarez "expressed concern on the possible impact this kind of environment has on consumers."

The AdBoard, he said in the statement, is charged not only with the protection of the advertising community and allied industries, but also with "safeguarding the welfare of the public."

Shows 'hardly affected' by early ad withdrawal last week

By Nini Valera

SHOW biz talk shows hardly felt the effect of the pullout by Universal McCann of their advertising load last weekend even as pressure for these shows to rethink their formats continued to escalate.

Venus Navalta, head of Universal McCann, one of the country's biggest media agencies with a total annual billing of over P7 billion, said its clients' combined advertising load in these talks shows totals only one and a half minutes of commercial air time.

"Even if we pulled out our load [altogether], it would not be [a] significant [loss to the networks]," Navalta told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview on Monday. "Other advertisers would take the slot."

A GMA 7 executive said also on Monday that "Startalk" had its regular load of commercials on April 23, usually 35 minutes of the total 90 minutes that the show runs. Under a ruling of the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkasters sa Pilipinas, 35 minutes of commercials on a 90-minute show is an overload. The usual ad load for a one-hour show is 18 minutes. But GMA 7 ceased to be a KBP member about two years ago and has been regulating itself.

Navalta said her company has indeed called up clients to recommend a pullout.

She explained: "We advised our clients of the worsening content of these shows and gave them our point of view, that [being in these shows was] not good for their brand image. We showed them the actual content of these shows and [they] immediately agreed [to pull out]."

Navalta added: "I am passionate about this because television invades our homes. Our children are part of the audience."

She cited the recent feature of an MSM footage supposedly of Piolo Pascual having sex with another man on "Startalk."

"Even if the video was pixelized, it was still very graphic," said Navalta. "How can we allow porno materials in a [weekend] afternoon show? How much lower would [the networks] go for the sake of ratings?"

Intention and integrity

GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment Wilma Galvante said "Startalk's" intention in showing the sex video was to expose the malpractice by unscrupulous people of propagating porno materials in which famous people supposedly appear.

"I stand by the integrity of ... our talk shows," Galvante told INQUIRER Entertainment also on Monday.

Besides, she noted, Piolo Pascual was not named as the person in the footage. "What we said was that sex videos in MSM are prevalent, and that these videos feature look-alikes of Jennilyn Mercado, Ethel Booba and Piolo Pascual."

Galvante rued the rival network's accusation that "Startalk" engaged in irresponsible journalism. "Our writers in 'Startalk' are credible, respected writers. We didn't just pluck them out of nowhere."

OPM at the click of a mouse

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

Techno geeks set up a 'virtual music mall' to help sell the music of talented but poor recording artists

A MORE effective and convenient way to promote and enjoy Filipino music on a global scale is now available at the click of a computer mouse.

A group of techno geeks, all young and loaded with passion and resources, have set up a website that serves as a virtual music mall where one can chat, window-shop and buy songs not usually found in record bars.

It's not exactly a new idea, since it has become standard practice for independent music artists to have websites where their own CDs are available for purchase. But listening to the guys behind Fiestamundo.com pitch their vision of a "Friendster-meets-iTunes" online community—where members get to bond and share the widest possible choice of songs, particularly those recorded by independent and unsigned local artists—sure beats the tediousness of logging on to different addresses.

Fiestamundo.com is hyped as "the world's first *barkada* group community for Filipino music and fun." It's actually a marketing/distribution system for all types of Filipino music in digital form, meaning MP3s, mobile phones, streaming media and even blog pages.

"We're not out to compete with record companies," says Andrian Lee who, together with another techie, David Quitoriano (co-founder of Yehey.com), put Fiestamundo in the pipeline for two years before finally launching March 27 this year.

What he means is that Net surfers will immediately distinguish the elements of a digital music portal. First, it's interactive. Second, and more importantly, the songs and artists one finds in the site are not available anywhere else. But anybody in any part of the world would now be able to hear the latest works especially of young and talented Pinoy musicians.

The 37-year-old Lee, a Chinoy whose flagship company, the Hong Kong-based Trevoca Ltd., is said to be one of the most successful direct-marketing ventures that pioneered in e-commerce five years ago, professes that his love for Pinoy music goaded him to put his money where his mouth is.

He explains: "Getting a record deal nowadays is like seeking an act of God, especially for musicians who don't even have the money to cut a demo. Do you know that the major labels produce an average of just two to three local albums annually, compared to around 20 in the past? My job is to find those poor but talented musicians and give them the breaks they deserve."

Lee talks of a music industry on the verge of dying—but only in the traditional sense because the new media is where the action is. As an example, he cites the Apple iTunes website "music store," which is reportedly outselling giant record bars like Tower and Virgin in the United States.

From the outset, Fiestamundo may appear to be targeting a very small market of local indie music fans. But how does one explain the website's 2.5 million visitors after only a month of operation? Ultimately what Lee would like to capture is a chunk of the 10 million-strong overseas Filipino workers who may be hungering for their own music. "A classic case is my sister," Lee narrates. "She left the country to work in Philadelphia. The first thing she wanted was a list of local music she couldn't find in the States."

Part of Fiestamundo's objectives is to discourage CD burning of songs, which is technically stealing music because the songwriter doesn't get royalties for his intellectual property. According to Lee, survey results they conducted show that those who practice CD burning think there's nothing wrong with it, although the respondents also believe local musicians deserve to get royalties from songs acquired through the Net.

In this chicken-and-egg situation, Lee decided that instead of talking, it was time to shut up and really do something to help Pinoy musicians.

Fiesta Mundo
The world's first barkada group community for Filipino music and fun.
darrylshy

Like his non-traditional approach vis-à-vis legitimate record labels, Lee would rather deal with music piracy on his own creative terms. "The idea," he says, "is to let people register with Fiestamundo and let them share a particular song with 12 of their friends for free—initially."

As a promotional offer starting May 1-31, all new Fiestamundo members get 10 free songs that can be legally shared with 12 of their friends.

Later on, the practice of sharing is allowed only after a registered member buys songs from Fiestamundo at P25 each—20 percent of which goes to the songwriter.

But what kind of songs are we talking about?

A run-through the Fiestamundo CD sampler of 11 tracks, all written and performed by such unknown yet promising artists like Manomano, Still, Chroma, Neruda, Maryz Ark, Darryl Shy, Velvet, Sisig, and Mush Carnival, and also including Jaco Benin (the 14-year-old son of Side A bassist Joey Benin) and Bridge, reveals that there is indeed a cornucopia of talents waiting to be heard.

Currently, Fiestamundo has signed up 50 artists and is shooting for an ideal number of 250 talents under its wing. Visayan songs as well as those in other regional languages are most welcome additions.

MTV Philippines is pitching in to help Fiestamundo talents by airing videos and interviews every Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on its MTV Siesta segment. Newly discovered artists also get to have their unrecorded compositions produced by Fiestamundo as a single, which FM radio station Wave 89.1 has committed to give airplay.

For now, it may seem to be a dotcom baby screaming for attention, but it bears watching that Fiestamundo is guiding us to a new way of celebrating the richness and diversity of music by Pinoys, for Pinoys.

MAGSISIMULA NA BUKAS!

Encantadia

The Greatest Magic is the Power of Love

Ang ENCANTADIA ay mahiwagang mundong nahahati sa apat na kaharian —
ang Adamya sa Timog, Sapiro sa Hilaga, Lireo sa Silangan at Hathoria sa Kanluran.
Ang kapayapaan ng Encantadia ay nakasalalay sa kapangyarihan ng apat na brilyante – ang brilyante ng tubig, lupa, hangin at apoy.

Mapayapang namumuhay ang mga Encantado at Encantada. Ang mga Hathor ang nagsimula ng gulo.
Layunin nilang mapasakamay ang apat na brilyante para masakop ang buong ENCANTADIA.

Kaya ipagkakatiwala ang apat na brilyante kay Ynang Reyna (Dawn Zulueta).
Ngunit darating ang panahon na kailangan na niya itong ipamana. Sino sa kanyang mga anak na Diwata ang susunod na Reyna?
Si Pirena (Sunshine Dizon), si Amihan (Iza Calzado), si Alena (Karylle) o si Danaya (Diana Zubiri)?

Buhay ang kanilang iaalay para makamit ang pinakaaasam na kapayapaan.
Dahil sa mundo ng ENCANTADIA, mananaig ang puwersang mas malakas pa sa mahika - ang kapangyarihan ng pag-ibig.

Lunes - Biyernes
pagkatapos ng Darna
simula BUKAS, May 2
sa GMA Telebabad

Ngayong Gabi! The Making of ENCANTADIA Linggo * May 1 * pagkatapos ng Daddy Di Do Du sa SNBO ng GMA

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BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a nightmarish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

What happened next inside this haunted house will shock you to no end.

28 days after moving in, the Lutzes abandoned the residence-lucky to escape with their lives. THIS IS THEIR TRUE STORY.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
The first fully documented case of demonic possession

Channels 2, 7 go to court over 'Daisy'

By DJ Yap

TELEVISION network GMA 7 has charged its chief rival ABS-CBN with copyright infringement for allegedly airing part of Channel 7's soap, "Daisy Siete" on Channel 2's show biz talk show, "The Buzz."

GMA 7 and Focus Entertainment, coproducers of "Daisy Siete," accused ABS-CBN officials of violating the Intellectual Property Code, which prohibits the public display of copyrighted intellectual property.

Represented by assistant vice president for legal affairs Dick Perez, GMA 7 accused ABS-CBN of repeatedly airing a portion of the opening billboard of "Daisy Siete," in which actress Jopay Paguia is seen holding a yellow flower.

The alleged infringement was said to have occurred on Feb. 13.

Losses claimed

GMA 7 claimed business losses and unrealized income amounting to P100 million, while Focus Entertainment claimed it suffered unrealized income and profits of P80 million.

Named respondents were ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III, president Luis Alejandro, other senior management officials, and the staff of "The Buzz."

Criminal penalties for copyright infringement can go up to three years imprisonment and up to P50,000 in fines on the first offense; on the second offense, up to six years imprisonment and up to P500,000 in fines; and on the third or subsequent offenses, up to nine years imprisonment and up to P1.5 million in fines.

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A SPECTACULAR GIANT EPIC
NON-STOP ACTION, STUNNING VISUAL EFFECTS AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS.
THE QUEST FOR THE *RING* CONTINUES...
The Nordic legend that inspired J.R.R. TOLKIEN to write THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY

KRISTANNA LØKEN
(STAR OF TERMINATOR 3)
RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DIE ANOTHER DAY

XXX 2
THE NEXT LEVEL
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GUESS WHO PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	XXX 2:THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30,10:00	THE INTERPRETER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
CANTHIS BE LOVE GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	WEDDING DATE PG13 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	XXX 2:THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30

3RD WEEK
MTRCB ▸PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
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THE FIRST BIG SUMMER MOVIE OF 2005
$125M BUDGETED SUPER PRODUCTION

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MAY 7-8
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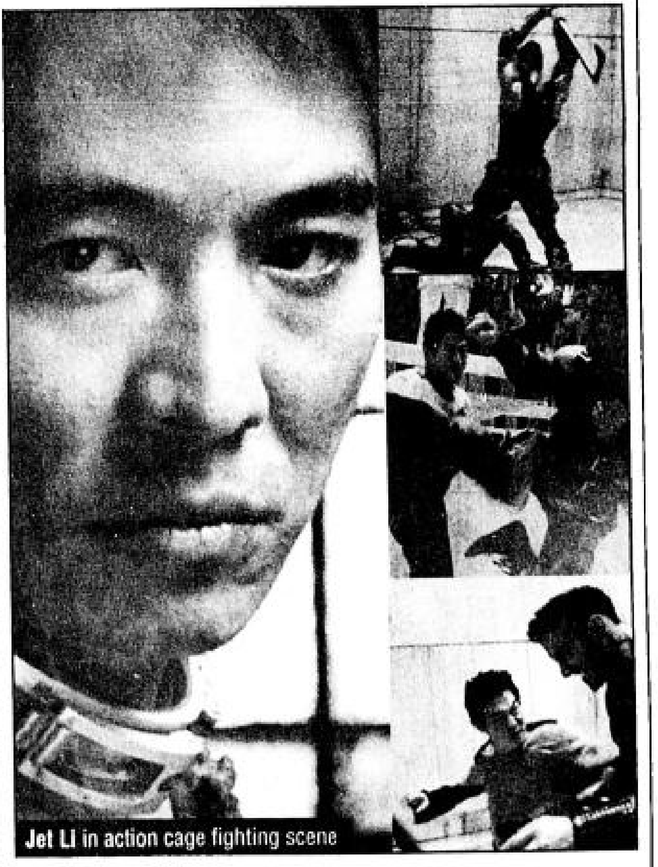
UNLEASHED
Cage Fighting aka Human Cockfighting



Jet Li in action cage fighting scene

Martial art superstar **JET LI** teams with top action director Louis Leterrier in the **UNLEASHED**.

Jet Li plays Danny, a brutal fighting machine kept since childhood in a dog-like state by gangland boss 'Uncle' Bart (Hoskins), and forced to fight like a brutal animal in underground cage fights.

Wasting no time in setting the action scenes, **UNLEASHED** opens with a no-holds-barred fight scene in a caged ring and - as with the ensuing battles – Jet Li's performance as a martial artist is amply showcased and masterfully choreographed by Hong Kong's legendary **YUEN WOO PING** of Matrix fame.

The film features some of the world's top cage fighters. The savagery of this llegal sport will be seen for the first time on screen.

Cage fighting aka human cockfighting

Cage fighters have been described as the modern day equivalent of Roman gladiators, whose brutal battle for victory is considered the ultimate test of mind and body.

This violent sport is sweeping across the world in illegal underground arenas, drawing thousands of spectators.

Cage fights are bloody messes and the losers often end up permanently crippled. The combatants lock horns in an octagonal cage, surrounded by a 1.5 metre (5ft) high fence, and once battle is under way it is virtually a case of anything goes as they attempt to punch, kick, slap or wrestle their way to victory. There are No rules. No mercy and No surrender.

ADVT

PAMPANGA Governor Mark Lapid PDI PHOTO

Man recalls how Lapid mauled him

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

"*KILALA mo ba ang nabangga mo* (Do you know who I am?"

This was what Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid reportedly told a man he crashed into while entering a disco place in Balibago, Angeles City early Sunday morning before mauling him with the help of his bodyguards.

Angeles City is 16 kilometers away from the provincial capital of Pampanga.

The victim, Gideon Cura, a 30-year-old private contractor, filed an attempted murder case against the governor on Tuesday before the Angeles City Regional Trial Court. He was represented by lawyer Norman de Guzman.

"There was intent to kill me, based on the intensity of the beating and the injuries that I sustained. *Parang gripo ng dugo ang ulo ko* (My head bled like a faucet). I had deep cuts in my head, chin and cheeks, plus bruises around my arms," Cura said in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

He had a medico-legal report, CT scan and pictures to support his claims, Cura added. He only has one willing witness, his cousin Allan Vital, who was with him at the time of the incident.

Cura recounted that at about 2 a.m. of April 24, he and Allan were on their way out of Club Halfway when he rammed into Lapid and his companions who were coming in.

No comment

"*Nagkatinginan kami* (Our eyes met). He got mad," Cura said. "He asked, '*Kilala mo ba ang nakabangga mo?*' I apologized profusely but he hit me with a beer bottle and then with a metal chair. His bodyguards then joined him in mauling me."

Mark, son of former actor and now Sen. Lito Lapid, refused to give any statement to media. He was quoted Friday on television as saying, "I'll see him (Cura) in court."

INQUIRER Entertainment also tried, but failed to reach the governor by phone.

Vital and the other people inside the disco, including some policemen, did not lift a finger to help him, according to Cura.

"I just forced myself to get out of the place. *Hinabol pa ako ng pukpok sa likod* (Someone chased me and hit me in the back)," he recalled. His cousin drove him to a clinic inside the LNS Subdivision, also in Angeles City.

After getting eight stitches and some rest, Cura said, he immediately went to a police station in Diamond Subdivision and filed a report. On Tuesday, he formally filed the case.

"I haven't heard from his camp," Cura said. "I'm ready to face him. Even a simple man like me should be able to seek redress. In fact, it is my duty as a citizen."

'HARI NG SABLAY'
The OPM hit, "Hari ng Sablay" is now a movie from Regal Films, starring Bearwin Meily in the title role and Rufa Mae Quinto. Hit maker Mac C. Alejandre directs from a sreenplay by Robert Joseph Nuevas and Wystan Dimalanta. The movie will use the original version of the song written by Vincent Ferdinand Dancel and performed by Sugarfree.

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BRENDAN GLEESON MARTON CSOKAS AND LIAM NEESON HARRY GREGSON-WILLIAMS JANTY YATES DODY DORN, A.C.E. ARTHUR MAX
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S-files

Live from Abellana!

Maki-chika at maki-party
kasama ang inyong mga
kinababaliwang artista
from all entertainment programs!

Magpa-picture na at magpa-autograph
sa inyong mga tinitilihang mga idol.

Sali na sa mga fun and exciting games.

Marami pang cool prizes
and giveaways.

Admission is FREE!

After S-Files, join naman kayo sa
GRAND KAPUSO JAMMING!

Abangan ang mga GMA buses and jeeps na maglilibot saan mang sulok ng Cebu.
Libreng sakay papuntang Cebu City Sports Complex!

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GMA

Diri ta bai! GMA

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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

- 1 XXX 2 • THX
  12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30
- 2 XXX 2
  10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 3 THE INTERPRETER
  11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
- 4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
  10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
- 5 GUESS WHO?
  10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 6 THE WEDDING DATE
  11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
- 7 THE JACKET
  1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
- 8 SAHARA
  1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
- 9 THE PACIFIER
  12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 10 SAMARA RING 2
  12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

- 1 XXX 2
  11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00
- 2 GUESS WHO?
  10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 3 SAHARA
  11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50
- 4 THE JACKET
  10:40 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
- 5 THE WEDDING DATE
  10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00
- 6 THE INTERPRETER
  10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
  11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

- 1 BOSO
  11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
- 2 SAHARA
  12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
- 3 THE JACKET
  11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
- 4 THE WEDDING DATE
  11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
- 5 THE INTERPRETER
  11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
- 6 GUESS WHO?
  11:20 1:40 4:00 6:10 8:30 10:30
- 7 XXX 2
  10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:20
- 8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
  12:20 3:15 6:10 9:10

NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

- 1 XXX 2
  1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30
- 2 THE INTERPRETER
  11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25
- 3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
  11:50 2:40 5:30 8:20
- 4 THE JACKET
  12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20
- 5 GUESS WHO?
  10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
- 6 XXX 2
  10:40 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20
- 7 RESERVE
- 8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
- 3 GUESS WHO?
- 4 THE INTERPRETER

CITISQUARE MALABON
289-2575

- 1 HOSTAGE
- 2 CURSED
- 3 THE WEDDING DATE
- 4 PARAISO

CAINTA
240 4661

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 THE JACKET
- 3 SAHARA
- 4 PARAISO

Asterix & Obelix VERSUS CAESAR

France's favorite funny cartoon heroes in live-action movie!

"The [illegible] little village from the Asterix and Obelix comic books is in trouble. It is the last place not [illegible] by Rome. When tax collector Claudius Incorruptus does not get his money from the villagers, [illegible] himself comes to the place to see what's so special about their resistance. A special magic [illegible] by the village's Druid, gives incredible power to those who drink it. Obelix, who fell into [illegible] has been invincible ever since. With the help of Tullius Destructivus, an intriguer, the [illegible] and the Druid into their hands in order to wipe the little village off the map [illegible] of its stock has been used up. But each individual also has some plans of his own..."

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april 27-may 03

STA. ROSA
(049) 837-0907

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 GUESS WHO?
- 3 OK KA, PARE KO
- 4 SAMARA RING 2
- 5 ASTERIX AND OBELIX

LIPA
(043) 757-3064
(043) 312-5870

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 PONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- 3 SAMARA RING 2
- 4 BOOGEYMAN
- 5 HOSTAGE

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 GUESS WHO?
- 3 PARAISO
- 4 HOSTAGE
- 5 ASTERIX AND OBELIX

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 HIDE AND SEEK
- 3 SAMARA RING 2
- 4 OK KA, PARE KO

IMUS
(046) 471-7838
(046) 471-8128

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 PARAISO
- 3 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
- 4 CURSED
- 5 BOSO
- 6 SAHARA

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

- 1 HIDE AND SEEK
- 2 PARAISO
- 3 THE WEDDING DATE
- 4 SAMARA RING 2
- 5 XXX 2
- 6 XXX 2

BACOLOD
(034) 441-5453
(034) 441-1959

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- 3 XXX 2
- 4 THE PACIFIER
- 5 BOOGEYMAN
- 6 SAMARA RING 2

ILOILO
(033) 336-9070

- 1 XXX 2
- 2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- 3 THE PACIFIER
- 4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- 5 HIDE AND SEEK
- 6 SAMARA RING 2

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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 GUESS WHO 2 XXX 2 3 THE INTERPRETER 4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 GUESS WHO 2 THE WEDDING DATE 3 THX THE INTERPRETER 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SAHARA 5 CAN THIS BE LOVE 6 XXX 2 7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 CAN THIS BE LOVE 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 2 XXX 2 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE INTERPRETER 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THX XXX 2 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE WEDDING DATE 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FINDING NEVERLAND 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 /XXX 2 8:35, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS 5 GUESS WHO 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX XXX 2 2 CAN THIS BE LOVE 3 GUESS WHO 4 THE WEDDING DATE 5 THE INTERPRETER
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 XXX 2 2 BE COOL 3 CAN THIS BE LOVE 4 FINDING NEVERLAND

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Final Round
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Activity Center

colors of summer
May 1, 2005, Sunday
Children's Party, 12nn to 4pm
Kiddie Fashion Show, 4pm

Sunday, 12nn - 5pm
A children's festival at the 3rd Level, Children's Zone

Case vs Kris dismissed

Complainant claimed 'Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba' was his idea

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE OFFICE of the city prosecutor in Alaminos City has dismissed for lack of "sufficient basis" the copyright infringement complaint that a man from Pangasinan filed against actress-TV host Kris Aquino and two ABS-CBN executives.

Romeo C. Bagarino of Alaminos filed the complaint before City Prosecutor Abraham Ramos. Bagarino claimed that the game show, "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba," was his idea. Named respondents in the complaint were Aquino and ABS-CBN president Cito Alejandro and chair Gabby Lopez.

According to Bagarino, he sent a letter to ABS-CBN in January 2002, presenting his concept for a TV program, which he called "The Pyramid Game Show," but the Kapamilya network did not reply.

Similar

Two years later, ABS-CBN launched "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba," whose concept, Bagarino said, was similar to his copyrighted game show.

But Ramos, in his resolution, said the two shows are "not identical" and that "format or mechanics of a television show is not included in the list of protected works."

In "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba," 10 contestants are chosen daily, but only four get to join the Pyramid Round and compete for the P50,000 grand prize. The winner of this round then challenges the current champion for the jackpot prize of P1 million.

The resolution cited several distinctions between "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba" and the Pyramid Game Show. Ramos said questions in Bagarino's game show are placed in number blocks or balls inside a pyramid; contestants pick their questions from among the balls.

General

In "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba," a contestant stands on a step at the base of a pyramid and is asked to choose a topic.

"Game Ka Na Ba" host Aquino offers three possible answers from which a contestant chooses the correct one. Should the contestant fail to answer correctly, he is automatically disqualified.

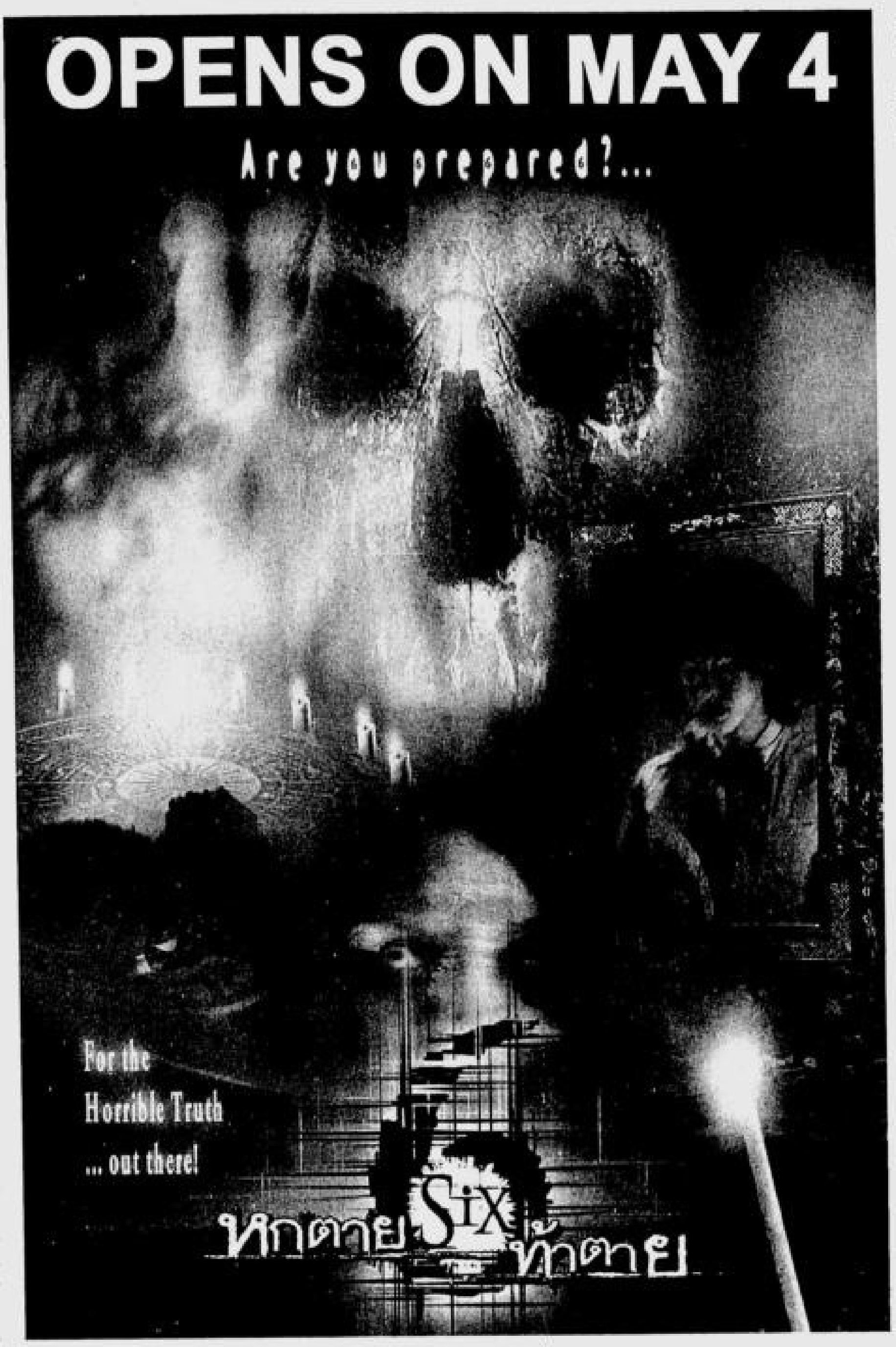
In the Pyramid Game Show, a contestant who fails to provide the correct answer is given another chance by picking another question from among the balls inside the pyramid. Three incorrect answers disqualify a contestant from further playing the game.

"Assuming for the sake of argument that the games are substantially similar, the format of the Pyramid Game Show is not one of those enumerated in the intellectual property code," Ramos said in the resolution.

He pointed out: "No less than Bagarino admitted that his Pyramid Game Show is a general concept [in terms of] idea and mechanics."

Bagarino's copyright application was filed and deposited on Jan. 11, 2002, with certificate issued by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) on Jan. 18 of the same year.

AQUINO, host of the game show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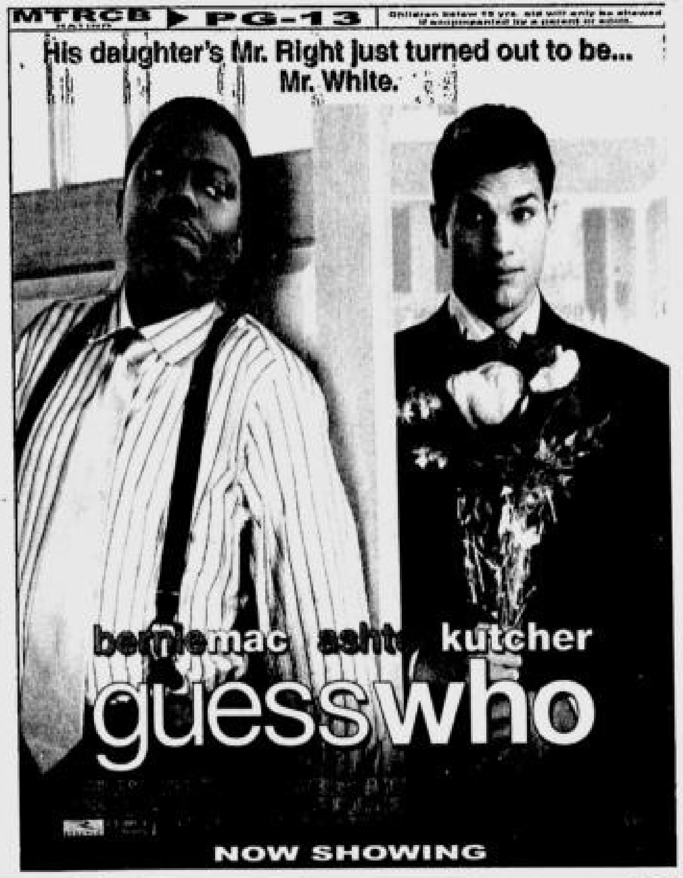
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XXX: STATE OF THE UNION 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	THE WEDDING DATE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
CAN THIS BE LOVE 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	THE PACIFIER 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20
FINDING NEVERLAND 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	SAHARA 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ CAN THIS BE LOVE 11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50	❹ RING OF THE NIBELUNGS 11:15 / 2:10 / 5:05 / 8:10
❷ XXX: STATE OF THE UNION 11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50	❺ THE INTERPRETER 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
❸ SAHARA 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE May 1 4.15pm Alaska vs. Coke / 6.35pm Shell vs. Ginebra	KEVYN LETTAU: MEMORIES OF LOVE May 14, Saturday, 8pm
THE 'C' SHOW May 21, Saturday, 8pm	ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA May 26, Thursday, 8pm

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1 (DOLBY)	XXX 2 PG13
2 (DOLBY)	THE INTERPRETER PG13
3 (DOLBY)	CAN THIS BE LOVE GP
4 (DOLBY)	GUESS WHO PG13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	THE JACKET PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	WEDDING DATE
2 (SDDS)	XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DTS)	SPANGLISH
4 GOLD (DTS)	GUESS WHO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE INTERPRETER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
8 (SRDS)	RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 (SRDS)	SAHARA
10 (SRDS)	CAN THIS BE LOVE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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1 (DOLBY)	THE INTERPRETER
2 (DOLBY)	XXX 2
3 (DOLBY)	GUESS WHO
4 (DOLBY)	CAN THIS BE LOVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2	RING OF NIBELUNGS
3	CAN THIS BE LOVE
4	GUESS WHO

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GUESS WHO
XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
CAN THIS BE LOVE
FINDING NEVERLAND
THE INTERPRETER
THE WEDDING DATE
THE PACIFIER
SAHARA

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2	XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
3	SAHARA
4	RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5	THE INTERPRETER

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	GUESS WHO
2 (DTS)	CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4	SAMARA (RING - 2)

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DTS)	XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4	GUESS WHO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MISS CONGENIALITY
2	CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	SAHARA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	ALONE IN THE DARK
2	CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	SAHARA
4 (DTS)	BE COOL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2	CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	SPONGEBOB

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3	PARAISO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3	BOOGEY MAN
4	RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	PARAISO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CAN THIS BE LOVE
5	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2	CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DTS EX)	HIDE AND SEEK
4	SAMARA (RING 2)

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2	PARAISO
3	MAPUSOK
4 (DTS)	LEFT BEHIND

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2	SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DTS)	CAN THIS BE LOVE
4	KAULAYAW
5	OK KA PARE KO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2	PARAISO
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
6	CAN THIS BE LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DOLBY)	HIDE AND SEEK
4 (DTS)	SAMARA (RING 2)

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SAMARA (RING - 2)
2	FINDING NEVERLAND
3 (DTS)	SAHARA
4 (DOLBY)	CAN THIS BE LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	CAN THIS BE LOVE
2	SAHARA
3 (DOLBY)	MISS CONGENIALITY
4 (DTS)	BE COOL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2	BOOGEY MAN
3	SPONGEBOB
4	CAN THIS BE LOVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2	RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SAHARA
2	MISS CONGENIALITY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PARAISO
2	XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

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A doggone world for Orlando Bloom and Paris Hilton

Guess who—actually, what—these two hot young celebs are traveling around with these days?

ORLANDO Bloom

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Only in Hollywood, folks: A dog that was eating camel dung in Avila, Spain, only a few months ago now calls "Lord of the Rings" heartthrob **Orlando Bloom** his master.

The lucky dog signaled the arrival or presence of Orlando in parts of the Ritz Carlton Pasadena during one recent weekend. My eldest daughter **Nikki**, a huge fan of Orlando's, began her countdown of the release of the actor's epic "Kingdom of Heaven" last year. She hoped that her *tatay* would interview the English actor so that she might have a chance to meet him, too.

After the evening screening at a nearby cineplex of the film directed by **Ridley Scott**, the man behind the award-winning "Gladiator," we went back to the Ritz for a cocktail reception on the hotel's fancy grounds. One by one, the actors in the film—**Liam Neeson, Jeremy Irons** (who asked us again about Imelda Marcos) and so on—walked into the Horseshoe Gardens. And then there was a black dog sitting dutifully by a man in black jeans whose back was turned to us. The man was Orlando. That was all it took for Nikki to palpitate. Somehow she found words to say when she finally met Orlando, who sports long hair and a moustache and goatee these days.

Charmed life

Over the course of the weekend, Nikki saw Orlando and got to pet the dog, **Sidi**, several times. The canine from Spain was living a charmed Hollywood life at the Ritz—being pet by Ridley Scott and a succession of beautiful, adoring girls at this cocktail party, lounging by the pool and traipsing in the lobby, followed by one of Orlando's people.

At our press con with Orlando the next day, Sidi arrived first—sprinting around the room once, as if inspecting the place first before his famous master walked in. Then Orlando came, still in black, with a red string on his neck from which various trinkets hung. "They're things that people either gave me or I found," he told us. "It's kind of like my life on a string. I guess one day we'll be talking and I'll be like this (he assumed a hunched posture) because I'm carrying such a huge collection."

The first question was about Sidi, of course. "He is a Bedouin-bred dog," Orlando began as he opened a Ritz Carlton-labeled water bottle. "He was on the streets of Avila, where my character Balian is when he assumes the title as heir to his father's estate in the Holy Land. The first time I was there, I saw him in the arms of this old man. I thought, oh that's sweet—he's got a home. But when I went back, I saw him eating camel dung out of a box. I cleaned him up. I was thinking that I would leave him or find him a home there. But in a couple of days, I couldn't let him go. He had shots and tests before I brought him over here. Now he travels pretty much everywhere with me."

Inspiring

Since this is the first film that he's carrying, I asked how he avoided being daunted by the pressure. "Being in the hands of a director like Ridley Scott made it a lot easier," he answered. "Ridley is a director who inspires greatness. Just being in his presence gave me a lot of confidence. Balian was a character I felt I could really relate to. Balian is a reluctant hero ... and it's a sort of a coming-of-age story, which are things that I could relate to."

He continued: "The pressure.... was also made easier by the fact that I've seen actors like **Viggo Mortensen** in 'Lord of the Rings,' **Brad Pitt** and **Eric Bana** in 'Troy' and **Johnny Depp** in 'Pirates of the Caribbean' carry their movies with great integrity and grace. I've been in those sort of historical movies."

An earnest interview subject, Orlando broke into his killer smile, put his hands on his chest and closed his eyes as if in rapture when a reporter asked him about women. "I was always very fond of women when I was growing up," he swooned. "My mother and my sister raised me because my

A DOGGONE/ A32

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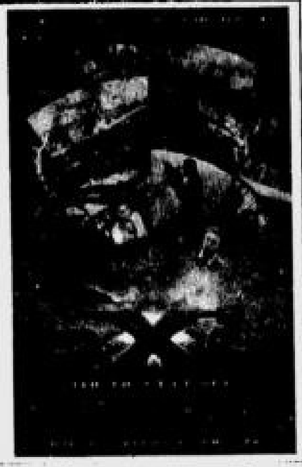

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1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11:00 FS / 11:35 MF / 1:50 / 4:05 / 6:20 / 8:35 / 10:15 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 12:50 END
2. THE INTERPRETER
11:45 FS / 12:15 MF / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15 / 10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:00 END
633-8878

sm megamall cinema 1
SAMARA: RING 2
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:10 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:30 END
633-1901

sm cebu cinema 1
CINEMA 1: BE COOL
11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:04 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:35 END
CINEMA 3: xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
10:30 MF / 12:20 / 2:10 / 4:00 / 5:50 / 7:40 / 9:20 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:10 END
(032) 231-3878

sm manila cinema 6
xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
10:55 FS / 11:25 MF / 1:20 / 3:15 / 5:10 / 7:05 / 8:50 LFS / 9:05 LMF / 11:00 END
523-9240

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 THE INTERPRETER
3 GUESS WHO
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 SAHARA
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11 CAN THIS BE LOVE
12 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city fairview
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 GUESS WHO
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 SAHARA
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
8 THE PACIFIER
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 THE INTERPRETER
11 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
12 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city north edsa
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 RESERVED
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 GUESS WHO
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 GUESS WHO
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 FINDING NEVERLAND
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 SAMARA: RING 2
8 THE PACIFIER
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 SAHARA
11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 CAN THIS LOVE

sm city sta. mesa
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 CAN THIS BE LOVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 THE INTERPRETER
8 SAHARA
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 GUESS WHO

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 FINDING NEVERLAND
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 THE JACKET
8 SAMARA: RING 2
9 SAHARA
10 GUESS WHO

sm city bicutan
1 SAHARA
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 GUESS WHO
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 GUESS WHO
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 HIDE AND SEEK
5 THE PACIFIER
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city baguio
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 CURSED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 CLOSER

sm city batangas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city dasmariñas
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

sm city marilao
1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bacoor
1 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 SAHARA
8 THE JACKET

sm city lucena
1 CURSED
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 CLOSER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 SAHARA
2 RESERVED
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 BE COOL
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city iloilo
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 RESERVED
8 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city davao
1 THE PACIFIER
2 SAHARA
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HOSTAGE
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE PACIFIER
3 BE COOL
4 SAMARA: RING 2

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A 30-MINUTE educational TV show for pet guardians and animal lovers 9 to 95 years old will air on May 7 and every Saturday thereafter at 11-11:30 a.m. on Studio 23.

"PeT.Ko," which features pets (common and exotic) and their guardians, is based on curriculum drawn up by Dr. Francisco Cortez, DVM, and the creative team of Get the Picture? Film and Video Productions.

It focuses on proper animal care, training and handling; the relationship between humans and animals; animal rights; and the positive effect of pet stewardship on humans.

Tonipet Gaba, "Karen's World" lead actor and "Art Angel" co-host, plays an animal lover who embarks on a journey to be a responsible pet owner. In the process, he gets to learn a lot about animals—and about himself.

He is accompanied in his journey by his pet dog Kai (not seen onscreen) and Monica (his friend and the show's narrator, who possesses encyclopedic knowledge on animals, and who is heard on his mobile phone but not seen onscreen).

"PeT.Ko" features segments shot in the studio and on location with pets and their guardians, combined with a segment done in simple animation.

The show is a finalist of the Catholic Mass Media Awards and recipient of the Anak TV Seal from the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television.

For inquiries, call 6320790 or 0917-8144592.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 XXX 2
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

2 THE INTERPRETER
MTRCB: PG-13
10:50, 1:40, 4:30,7:20, 10:10

3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
MTRCB: GP P120.00
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30,10:00

4 GUESS WHO
MTRCB: PG-13
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

PREMIERE THEATRE THE JACKET
MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Get Your Star Wars Movie Tickets Early!

Be one of the first to catch the simultaneous U.S. screening of Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith at the Shang Cineplex on May 18! Premiere screening starts at 10:00pm.

Advance tickets* for sale at no extra service fee from May 6, 2005 onwards. Available at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters at Level 6 and the ticket booth at Level 1.

* Selected screenings from May 18-22

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
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CINEMA 1
GUESS WHO
11:40 , 2:25 , 5:00 , 7:35 , 10:10
PG13

CINEMA 2
TRIPLE X 2
10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20 , 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10
PG13

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1 THE INTERPRETER
12:05, 2:55, 5:45
8:35, 11:10
PG-13

2 XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
10:55, 1:20, 3:45
6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 GUESS WHO?
12:35, 3:10, 5:45
8:20, 10:50
PG-13

4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
GP

Star group of cinemas movie guide
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3 Paraiso 4 Can This Be Love 5 XXX 2	1 Ring of Nibelungs 2 Paraiso 3 Under Renovation 4 Under Renovation 5 XXX 2 6 Can This Be Love	1 Son of the Mask 2 Rental Reservation
Kids Salon and Fashion Show Starmall Edsa Apr 30 Saturday 2nd Level Food Court, 4pm		Star Model Search Live at Metropolis Star Alabang April 29-30 Fri. n Sat. 2pm

Jake Cu
seducti

Text, styling and direction
by Larry Leviste
Contributor

JAKE Cuenca, all of 17 and a rising star of GMA Talent Center, sizzles with sex appeal in his *teleseryes* "Hanggang Kailan," "Forever in My Heart" and his upcoming movie "Say That You Love Me" (directed by Mac Alejandre, opening June 19).

"I try harder ... maybe because I'm always cast as the third party in a love triangle," says Jake. "In this next movie, I come between Jennelyn Mercado and Mark Herras. But that's okay because I love to act."

Born Dec. 30, 1987, Jake was the middle child in a brood of three. "I guess I suffered from the middle child syndrome. My parents were both working hard and I craved attention. In school, I was the class clown," he says.

At the tender age of nine, Jake was discovered by a talent scout for the Cosmo Modeling Agency. Jake made television and print commercials for Coke, Safeguard and Globe. At 14, he

was taken u
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jano.
"When I
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Jake. "Actin
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father wasn't with my mother. So I suppose that probab
some kind of influence."
Still smiling, he rhapsodized about being 16 and dis
ing girls when he moved from his native Canterbury t
don. "I had a lot of fun being a boy running around Lo
having fun, going out and growing up. It was a good t
my life. I'd left my home. I went to clubs. I broke hearts.
my heart broken. I was pretty much on my own in Lo
just enjoying life, doing my studies, meeting girls and ha
out. So I was always quite comfortable (with girls)."
Before we see him again as a blacksmith in two mor
rates of the Caribbean" movies, he tackles his first Am
role (look ma, no swords or period costumes!) in "Eliz
town" with another notable director, **Cameron C**
"Cameron Crowe is the quintessential American direct
declared. "He has his heart and hands on the pulse of A
ca. I wanted to do a contemporary American role. To ge
that with a director like Cameron Crowe was amazin
playing part of who Cameron is. And to have Sidi wi
during the filming was wonderful. It's nice to have to
about somebody else as opposed to everybody wo
about you. He's a great friend and companion."
At the end of the press con, Sidi came back to coll
master. After surveying the room again and submitting
petting of reporters and publicists, Sidi lay down and slu
his chin on the floor. I think the once-scrawny dog fro
dusty plains of Avila is becoming a true Holly
denizen—jaded to the bone.
Postscript: Nikki later hugged me and said, "Dadd
are my hero" for making it possible for her to meet Or
How often do you earn that endorsement from your a
cent daughter? Orlando Bloom, I owe you one.

Beautiful decline

If, as some mean wags maintain, **Paris Hilton**
paradigm of the end of the Western Civilization, then t
cline is looking mighty beautiful indeed.
At the Warner Ranch in Burbank, Paris recently intro
a potential friend of Sidi. "This is **Bambi**, my new Chih
and **Tinkerbell**'s new little boyfriend," said the Ubiq
One. In case you have not been following the progress
Western Civilization, Tinkerbell is the heiress' first Chihu
Paris, who is dating a guy named Paris (I kid you no
pears in the movie "House of Wax." It's a horror movie b
does a striptease scene. The pretty great granddaughter
founder of the Hilton hotels explained, "I think with an
acter you can put a little of yourself into it and make
and, you know, the audience likes that. It's fun to put
joke in there and show people you can laugh at yoursel
She and fellow "The Simple Life" TV show star
Richie have fallen out after they got into a heated deb
the socio-political consequences of **President Bush**'s pol
the Iraq war. Okay, I'm just kidding about the debate
cause of the spat (some say that it's just a gimmick).
press con, Paris did not say who she will hire to replace
but reports say that it will be **Kimberly, Rod Stewart's** d
ter.
In case you can't get enough of the Party Girl, get rea
Paris Hilton, the singer. "You know, I've been singing my
life," she revealed. "I've just been really shy and it's h
sing in front of people. But I have been recording my
for like the past year-and-a-half. It's a lot of work since
ways, you know, shooting a movie or doing something
be releasing the album in August."
Paris Hilton—model, actress, homemade sex vide
producer, designer and now, singer. Who knew?

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.

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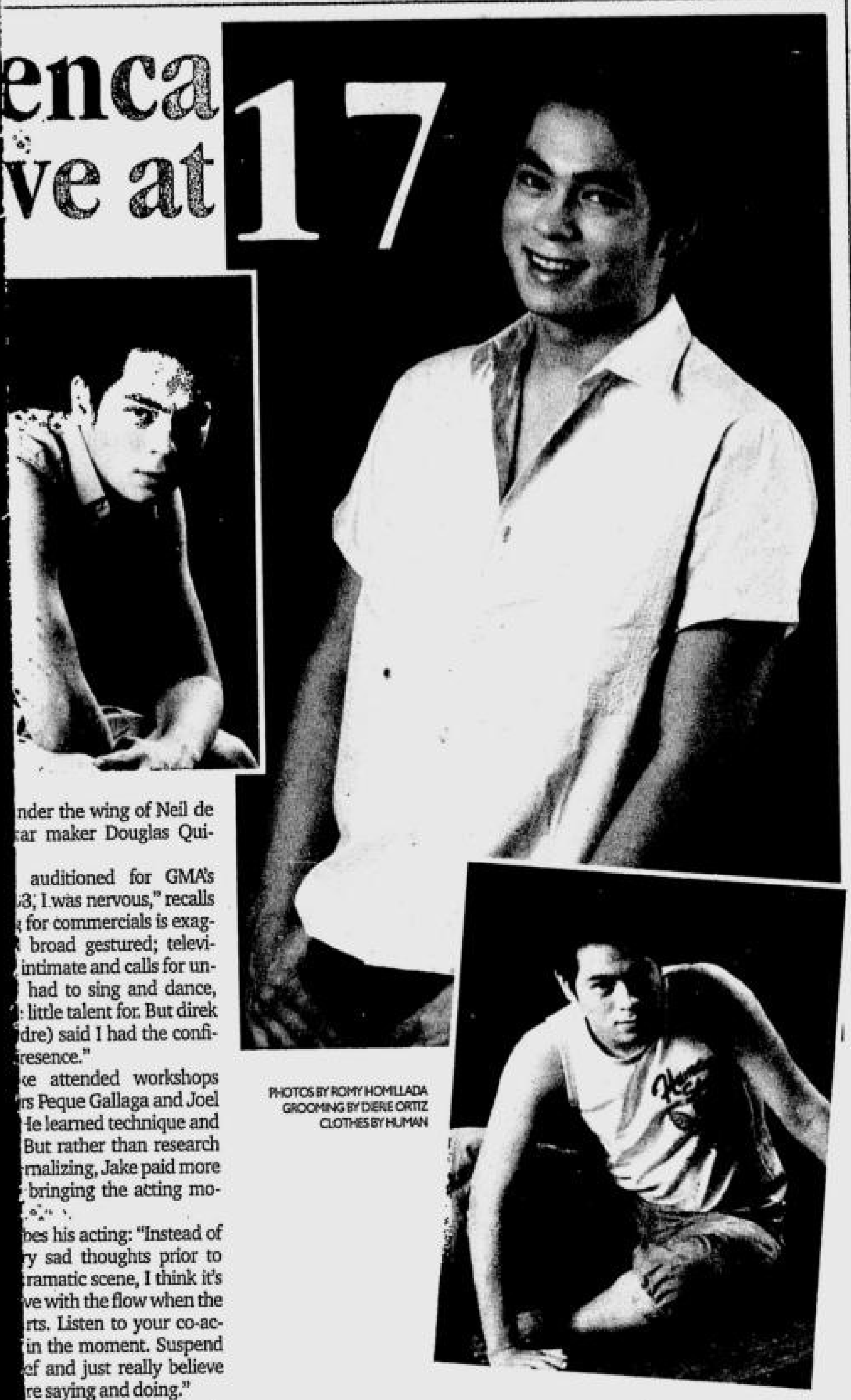
enca ve at 17



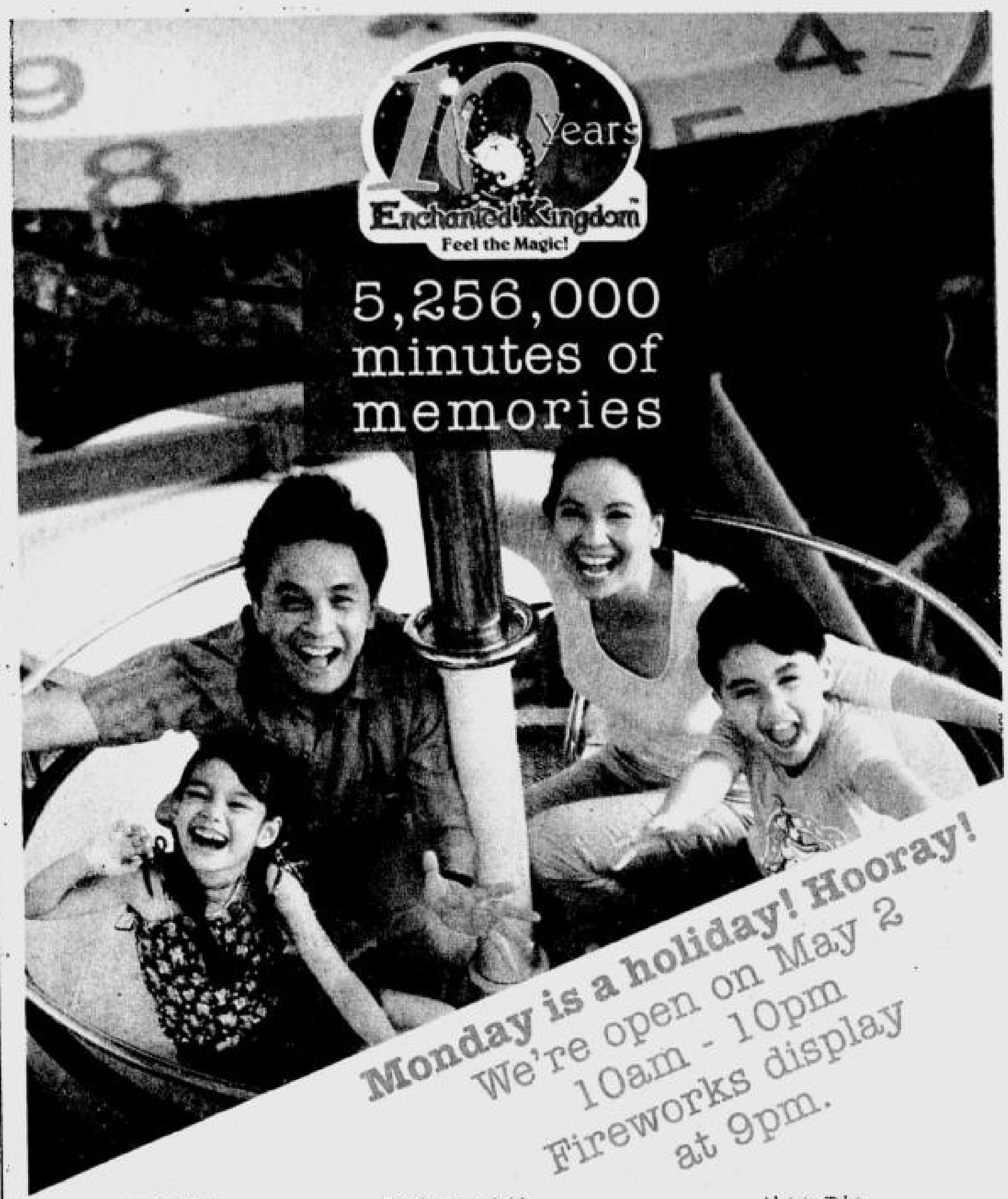
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA
GROOMING BY DIERE ORTIZ
CLOTHES BY HUMAN

nder the wing of Neil de
ar maker Douglas Qui-

auditioned for GMA's
3, I was nervous," recalls
for commercials is exag-
broad gestured; televi-
intimate and calls for un-
had to sing and dance,
little talent for. But direk
dre) said I had the confi-
resence."

e attended workshops
rs Peque Gallaga and Joel
He learned technique and
But rather than research
nalizing, Jake paid more
bringing the acting mo-

es his acting: "Instead of
y sad thoughts prior to
ramatic scene, I think it's
ve with the flow when the
rts. Listen to your co-ac-
in the moment. Suspend
ef and just really believe
re saying and doing."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Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish.) She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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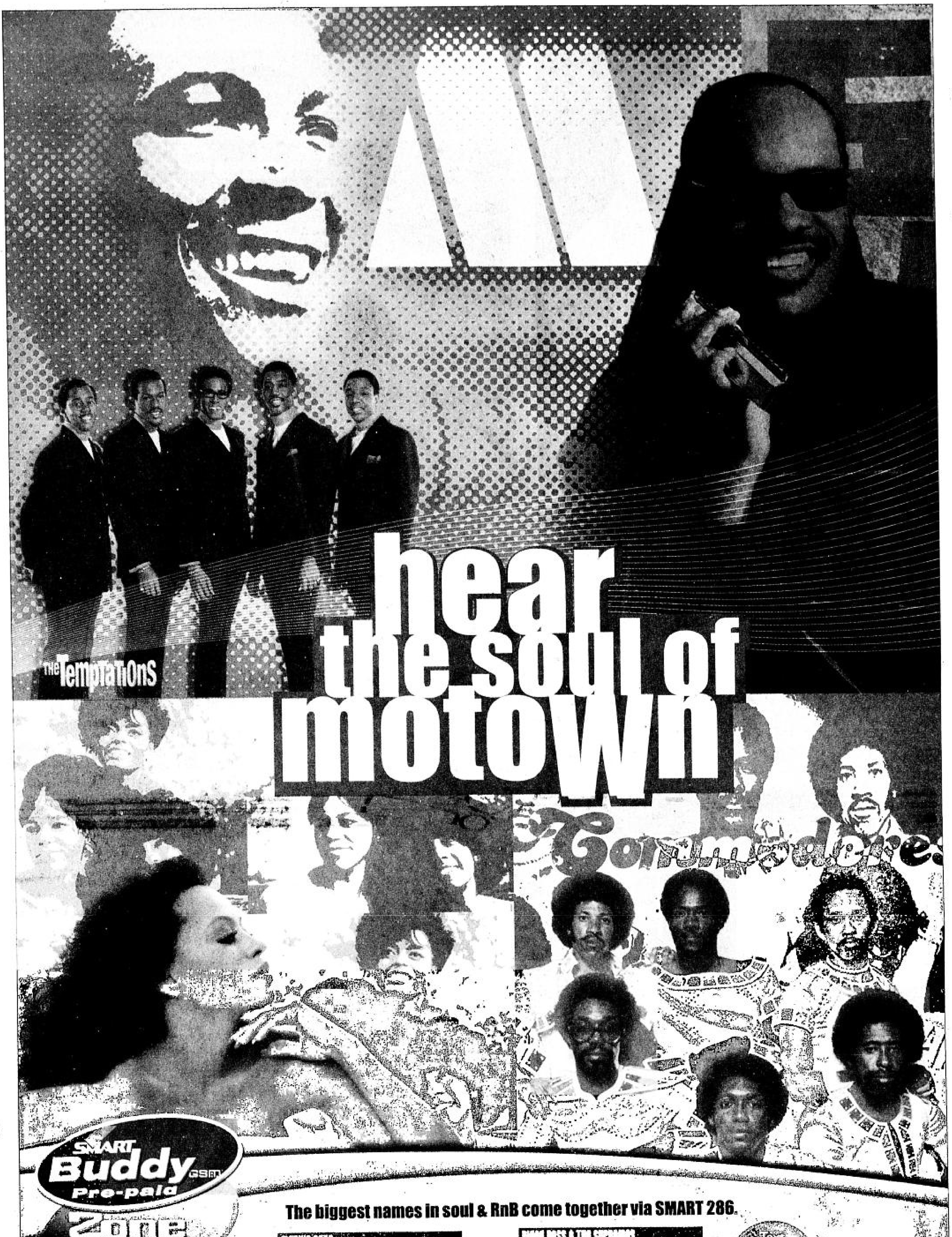

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RING NAME	RING ID
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Fifty Fifty Love	102580
Power	102581

MARVIN GAYE

RING NAME	RING ID
Heard It Through The Grapevine	102552
What's Going On	102553
Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing	102554
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	102570

LIONEL RICHIE

RING NAME	RING ID
Lady	102539
Hello	102555
Say You, Say Me	102556
Just For You	102573
Truly	102574
I Still Believe	102575

STEVIE WONDER

RING NAME	RING ID
Superstition	102558
You Are The Sunshine Of My Life	102559
Happy Birthday	102560

COMMODORES

RING NAME	RING ID
Easy	102569

DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES

RING NAME	RING ID
Baby Love	102532
Stop! In The Name Of Love	102533
You Can't Hurry Love	102534
You Keep Me Hanging On	102535
I'm Gonna Make You Love Me (w/ The Temptations)	102536
Do You Know Where You're Going To (Theme from The Mahogany)	102537
Endless Love (w/ Lionel Richie)	102538
Where Did Our Heart Go	102551

SMOKEY ROBINSON

RING NAME	RING ID
Tracks Of My Tears	102540
Cruisin'	102541

DIANA ROSS

RING NAME	RING ID
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	102542
Touch Me In The Morning	102543
Upside Down	102557
Baby Love	102576
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Close encounter with *kimchi*

Can This be Love?

Directed by Joey Javier Reyes

By Nice Rodriguez and Elvira Mata

OUR two reviewers recall their own close encounters with foreign exchange students.

ELVIRA: I could never understand Pinoys' fascination with Sandara Park. I mean, she's South Korean. But now I do, after watching this movie, I do. Sandara reminds me of Jolina Magdangal before the latter grew up. And a little of Kris Aquino when she was still a virgin.

"Can This Be Love" was tailor-made for Sandara, much like "Conan the Barbarian" was the perfect vehicle for Arnold Schwarzenegger. Sandara plays Daisy, an exchange student who's in the Philippines to learn English. Through typing and texting, she meets Ryan, played by Hero Angeles. They date, fall in love. Daisy's father finds out, tells her to break up with Ryan and they do. They make up just before Daisy boards a taxi to the airport—she's going back to Korea—and I think it should have ended there.

But, no, Filipinos insist on a happy ending, so with the magic of film, director Joey Reyes puts together a scrap book of pictures which hint that Daisy and Ryan do get married and live happily ever after—it's the stuff of fairy tales and cotton candy, not *kimchi*.

NICE: When I was living in Canada, I hosted, in my home, foreign students who wanted to learn English. What they really appreciate is when you converse with them in English. I don't know why, in this movie, Daisy is surrounded by people who are not as helpful. Even her love interest, Ryan, talks to her in Tagalog like she was born here.

Can this be love? I don't think so. They're hardly communicating. The only way this relationship would work is if it's sexually charged. A sexual Sandara? I don't think so.

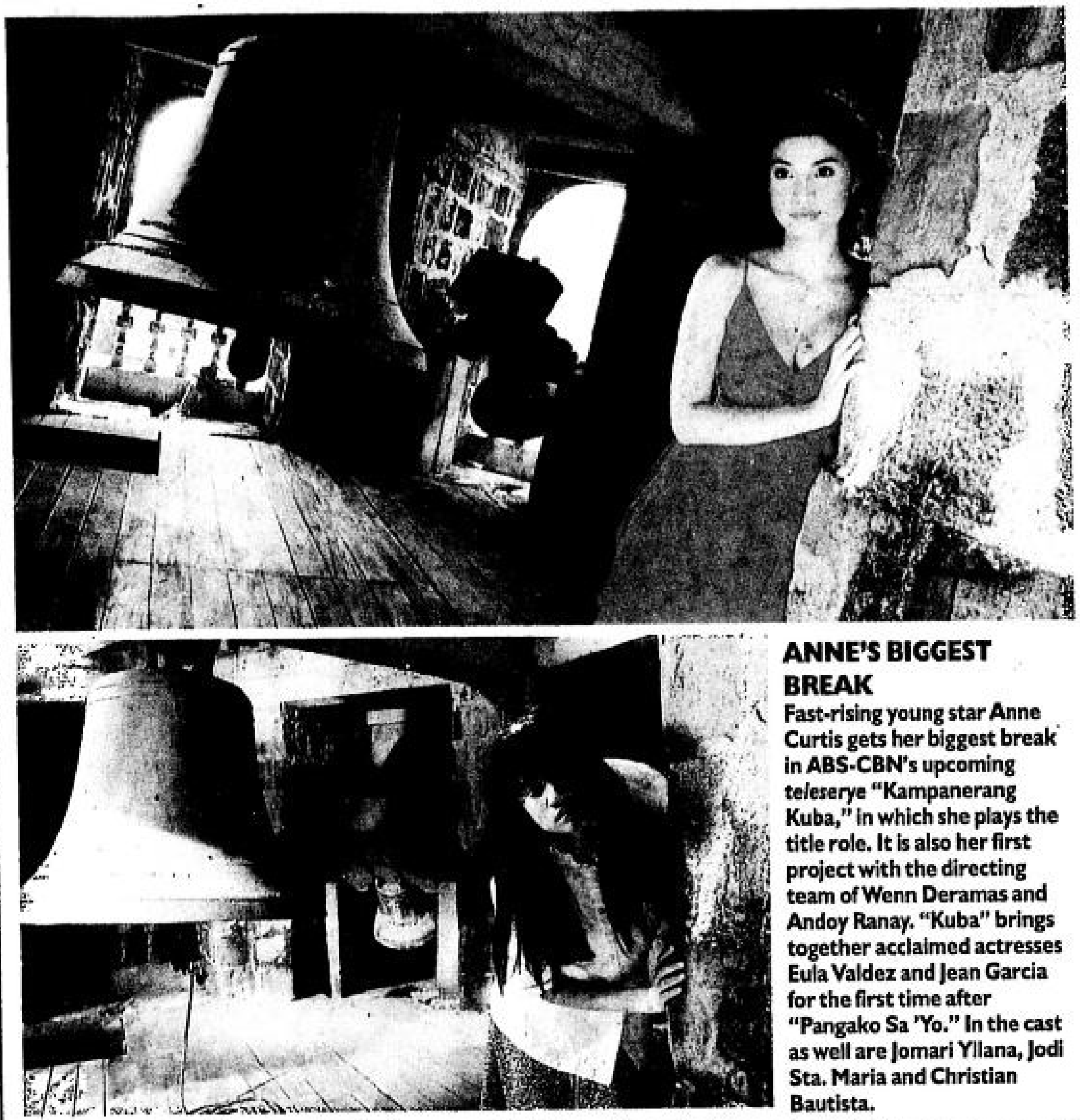
ELVIRA: She's not exactly a Viva Hot Babe. I like her hats, though.

NICE: Nobody explains why Daisy learns to speak Tagalog before she becomes fluent in English which, I think, is an easier language for her to learn. They just want Tagalog-speaking Samara to be our newest darling.

Nevertheless, the film is an interesting sociological piece. We have heard many horror stories of Filipinos living abroad. It's time we found out

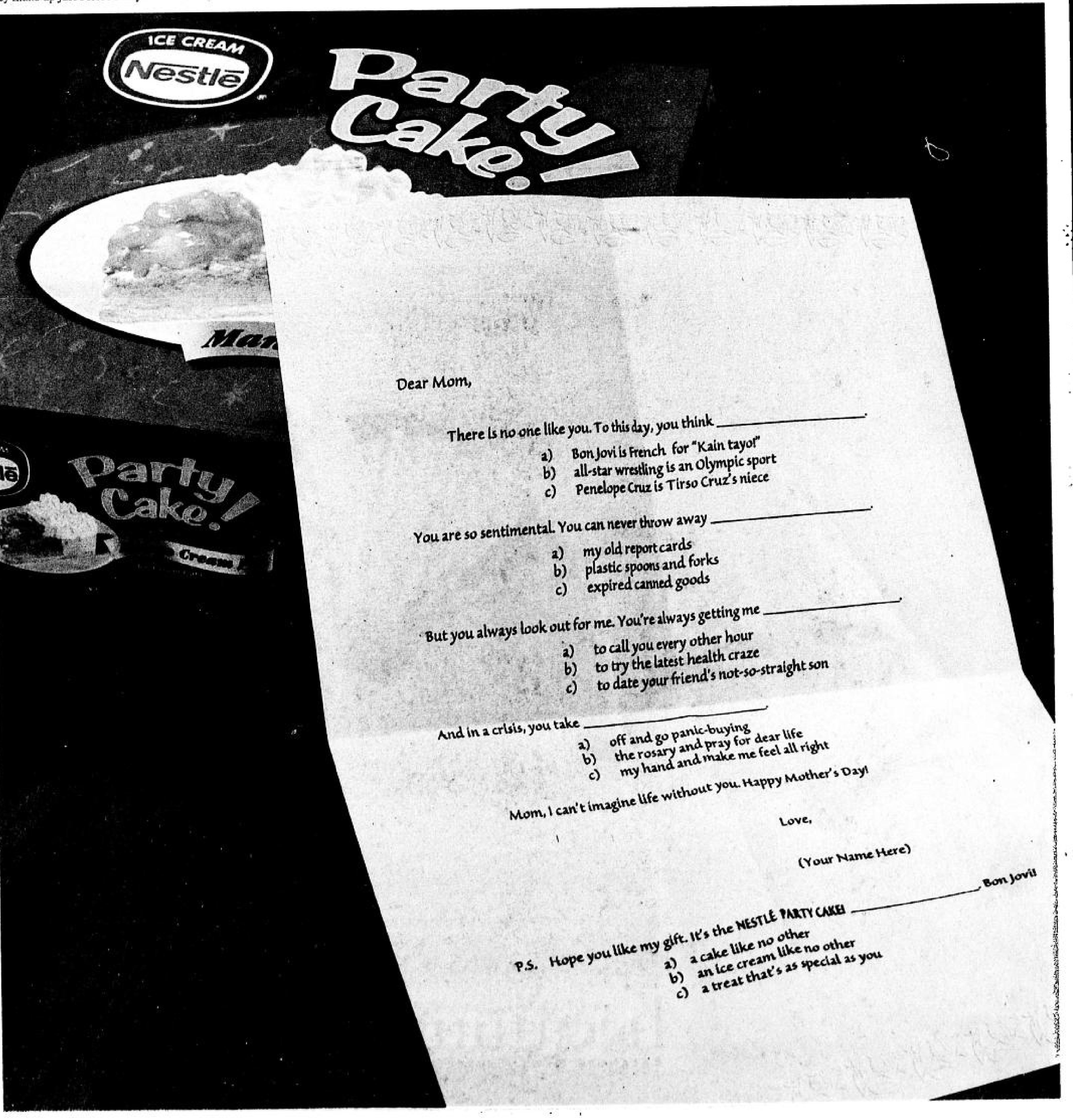
CLOSE/ A4-2

> An interesting sociological piece, this movie starring a Pinoy idol who's Korean



ANNE'S BIGGEST BREAK

Fast-rising young star Anne Curtis gets her biggest break in ABS-CBN's upcoming *teleserye* "Kampanerang Kuba," in which she plays the title role. It is also her first project with the directing team of Wenn Deramas and Andoy Ranay. "Kuba" brings together acclaimed actresses Eula Valdez and Jean Garcia for the first time after "Pangako Sa 'Yo." In the cast as well are Jomari Yllana, Jodi Sta. Maria and Christian Bautista.



Dear Mom,

There is no one like you. To this day, you think ______________.
a) Bon Jovi is French for "Kain tayo!"
b) all-star wrestling is an Olympic sport
c) Penelope Cruz is Tirso Cruz's niece

You are so sentimental. You can never throw away ______________.
a) my old report cards
b) plastic spoons and forks
c) expired canned goods

But you always look out for me. You're always getting me ______________.
a) to call you every other hour
b) to try the latest health craze
c) to date your friend's not-so-straight son

And in a crisis, you take ______________.
a) off and go panic-buying
b) the rosary and pray for dear life
c) my hand and make me feel all right

Mom, I can't imagine life without you. Happy Mother's Day!

Love,

(Your Name Here)

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'Ladies in Lavender' is a drama of reflection, regret and resignation

Dench, Smith in a quiet little movie

LOS ANGELES—Put Judi Dench and Maggie Smith together to read their grocery lists and you'd be halfway to a decent film.

"Ladies in Lavender," the directing debut of British actor Charles Dance, casts Dench and Smith in a quiet little drama of reflection, regret and resignation involving two elderly sisters and a young violinist who briefly enters their lives.

PREVIEW

Not a whole lot happens on the surface, though the pairing of Dench and Smith elevates the film far above its skimpy story. Even as mousy women whom the world has passed by, they are commanding presences, their inner turmoil played out in glances both fierce and fearful.

Vibrant portrait

The film meanders through a dead-end subplot or two, and its pivotal crisis relies on a case of implausible happenstance. Yet Dance, adapting the screenplay from a short story by William J. Locke, fleshes out the tale into a vibrant portrait of an English community clinging to its seclusion as Europe inches toward World War II.

"Ladies in Lavender" is set in the seaside town of Cornwall in 1936. Aging sisters Janet (Smith), a mildly bossy war widow, and Ursula (Dench), a fragile spinster, dwell quietly in their family cottage, nearing life's finish line with not much to show for it beyond each other.

Washed up on their beach after a storm is Andrea (Daniel Bruhl of the German hit "Good Bye, Lenin!"), a Polish emigre who had been bound for America when he was blown overboard.

The sisters take in Andrea, a violin wizard whose music, youthful exuberance and passionate innocence stir maternal feelings in Janet and memories of lost love, either real or imagined, in Ursula.

Violinist Joshua Bell provides Andrea's music, his glorious solos alone making "Ladies in Lavender" worth seeing.

Janet and Ursula feel like young girls again, down to petty jealousies that arise between them and suspicions over the motives of Olga (Natascha McElhone), a Russian visitor who happens to have a world-class violinist for a brother. Olga befriends Andrea, convinced he's destined for the great concert halls.

Her presence is farfetched. The sister of a violin master just happens to pass a remote cottage in Cornwall at precisely the moment undiscovered prodigy Andrea gets down to some serious fiddling?

Still, McElhone is a classy, exotic counterpoint to the fidgety, frumpy sisters, while Miriam Margolyes offers crabbily comic support as Ursula and Janet's housekeeper. David Warner is stern and sturdy as the town doctor, though his wishful romantic subplot involving Olga ends up a pointless distraction to the main story.

Solid meal

Andrea is largely a blank slate, a pretty face and gleaming smile to tantalize the dowagers. But through sheer earnestness, Bruhl infuses the young man with warmth and charm.

The ladies themselves rule, the delicate interplay between two dames of British drama a treat to savor. Dench and Smith instill the old birds with history so rich and palpable, a full image of their life stories unfolds through nothing but spare dialogue and reflective expressions.

Nothing approaching profound ever emerges from Janet and Ursula's last little waltz, the film ultimately weighing in like "Babette's Feast" on a diet. No gourmet eats, but a solid meal nonetheless. *AP*

Knowing w

AT FIRST glance, the current film "The Interpreter" looks like it has a lot going for it—veteran director **Sydney Pollack**, topnotch lead actors **Sean Penn** and **Nicole Kidman**, and an "engaged" storyline about dictators, assassination attempts, erstwhile heroes with feet of clay, the past holding the present hostage, what words really mean—etc.!

This is a rich brew of potent plus points, and the director and stars' work does pan out. But the story proves to be the movie's Achilles heel, because it ultimately can't make unified sense of its many concerns.

In the gripping political thriller, Kidman plays an interpreter at United Nations headquarters in New York. Her generally peaceful and predictable life is turned upside-down when she overhears two people planning the assassination of the despotic president of an African country.

At first, the FBI agent played by Penn thinks she's lying, but he later changes his mind and assigns his top assistants to protect her from the mysterious figures who are out to silence her.

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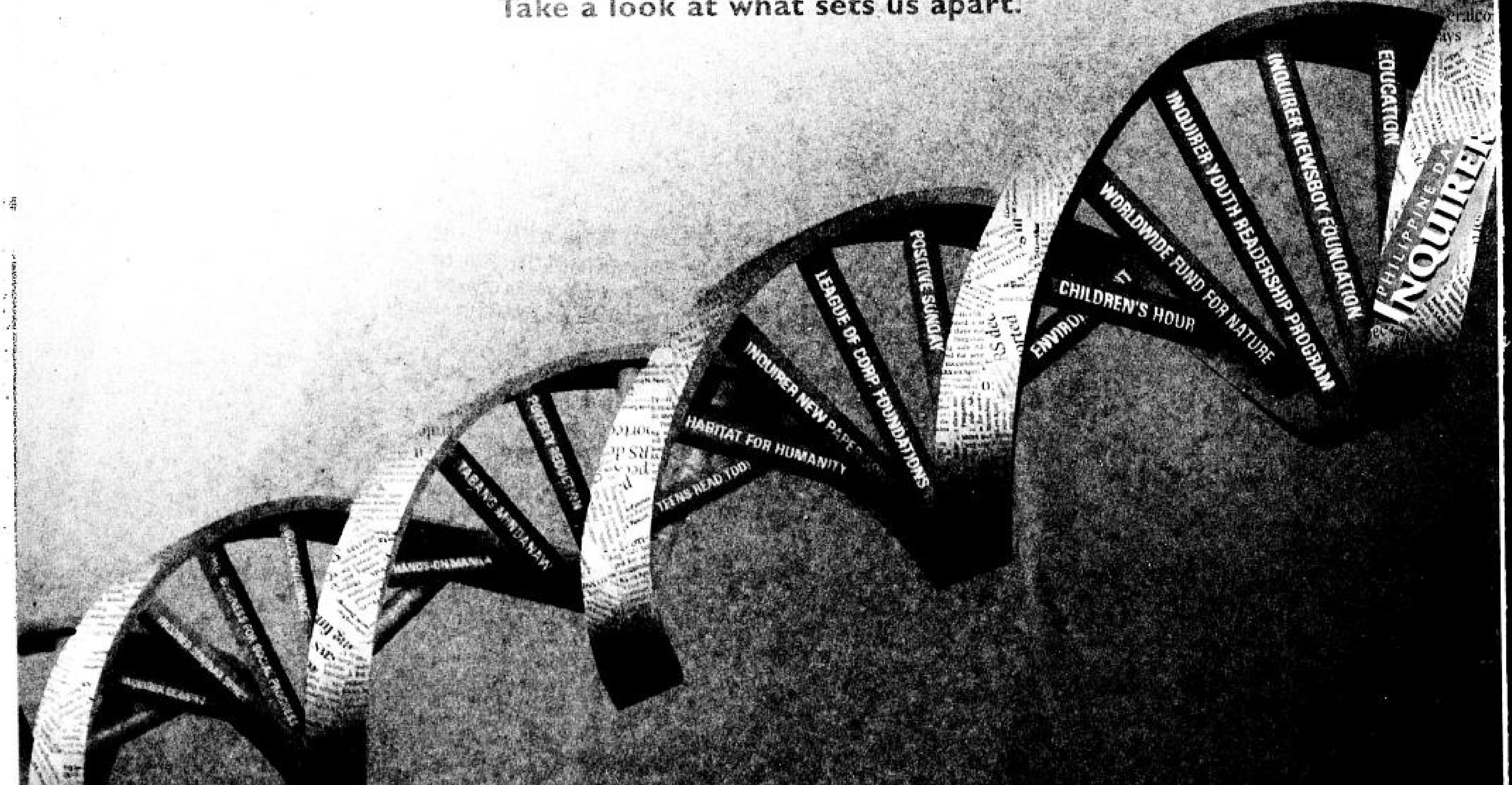

Take a look at what sets us apart.

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VIEWFINDER

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head on the day when the African leader is to address the UN General Assembly, and this is the movie's carefully-constructed storyline starts to unravel.

For one thing, the assassins easily get into shooting position inside the building, despite the layers upon layers of security thrown over it.

Next, the event is allowed to continue, despite the grave security threats that have been detected, and the lives that have already been lost.

Third, and most confounding of all, Kidman disappears and reappears seemingly at will, running circles around the security experts around her, even if she's a mere tyro compared to them.

Her blithe genius at escape artistry enables her to pull off the most surprising plot twist of all: towards the end of the film, even after the alleged assassination attempt has been foiled, a second effort unexpectedly involves her!

Huh? The somersaults that the movie's script executes at this point would impress gymnasts and aerialists, but fail to pass muster with screen structuralists, who find the screenplay over-plotted, with a lot getting lost in the interpretation!

Confounded by all this overwriting, we can still find substance and value in the production's lead performances and direction, so all is definitely not lost. Still, we can't be blamed for wishing that the movie's writers, all three of them, had known when to leave well enough alone!

Movies on TV

ON HBO, May 1 at 6:30 a.m., "Frances." 5:05 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." 8 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." May 2 at 12:30 p.m., "A Walk to Remember." 3:40 p.m., "That Championship Season." May 3 at 7:40 a.m., "Love Star." 11:30 a.m., "About Schmidt." 6:15 p.m., "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." 10:55 p.m., "Normal." May 4 at 10:30 p.m, "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

On Cinemax, May 1 at 12:30 p.m., "Indictment: The McMartin Trial." 10:30 p.m., "Ghosts of Mississippi." May 2 at 6:30 a.m. "Rebel Without A Cause." May 3 at 11:15 a.m., "The Cowboy Way." May 4 at 2:45 p.m., "The Great Race." 9 p.m., "Plots With A View." 1:45 a.m., "Deconstructing Sarah."

'Quest'

AT 7 P.M. on May 2, CNN's **Richard Quest** looks into the zany and brainy world of political satirists and comedians, as he prepares to go "live" himself at Caroline's Comedy Club. The CNN special, "Quest," features **Jon Stewart, Ricky Gervais, Billy Connolly,** the talents behind the legendary French satire show, "Les Guignols de L'Info," and the Manhattan Comedy School. Not to be missed!

KIDS GET ASTIG

So you want to be tough? Let the kids of "ASTIG" show you how. Tahnee Pangilinan Buizon, Miguel Zaragoza, Miko Mendoza and Tracey Rustia are "All Set To Imitate God" as hosts of the TV show that premieres May 7, 10:30 to 11 a.m. on ABC 5. The show gives children the lowdown on how much God loves them through stories from the Bible and takes on the usual Saturday morning cartoon fare with segments on arts and crafts, games, interviews with young achievers and features on Christian children from all over the world. Produced by CBN Asia.

xuberant cast

'kimchi'

From page A4-1

how we treat foreigners here. In the movie, if we're not snatching their wallet or disregarding their right to an opinion by revising their term paper without asking permission, we unabashedly commit racial slurs, rudely calling them *bulol* or *kimchi* or, worse, telling them: "Koreans go home!"

I myself like to shop Korean and frequent their restaurants because of their wide selection of appetizers and dishes. In this movie, Daisy is always portrayed as eating noodles, noodles and sometimes, instant noodles. It's probably because she's endorsing a brand of ramen but I think it's more out of ignorance.

ELVIRA: I once had a Korean house mate who fried *kimchi*. It stunk up the whole house. I retaliated by frying *tuyo*.

NICE: When I started watching the Korean telenovelas, I would mix up the characters and channels. But I was captivated with the stories. This movie could have been our chance to show our Asian neighbors that we're good storytellers but we blew it.

Lip gloss?

ELVIRA: We used to be the best in filmmaking in Asia. But now, our movie industry is dying, without life support or even a morphine drip. We've been overtaken by the Vietnamese, the Koreans, and more recently, the Thais. (Sigh) Last year, Korean Park Chan-wook's "Oldboy," described as a neo-noir revenge flick, won the prestigious Grand Prize at the Cannes. And like "Ringu," which Hollywood remade into "The Ring," at least six other South Korean box-office hits are getting the same makeover treatment: "Il Mare" and "Marrying the Mafia" (Warner Bros.), "A Tale of Two Sisters" and "My Sassy Girl" (Dreamworks) and "My Wife Is a Gangster" and "My Teacher Mr. Kim" (Miramax/Dimension Films), and "Oldboy" (Universal).

NICE: Sandara's Daisy is always sulking, a bit of a prude and annoyingly playful. Hero's Ryan is opportunistic, selfish and a sexist typist. Where could this relationship go? Daisy is so fragile here. I would not be surprised if my transsexual friends suddenly start aping her as their next idol.

"*Iba ka. Iba ako,*" Ryan sums up their relationship. After everything they go through, nobody matures in the movie, but they wed.

ELVIRA: Did you notice Ryan was always wearing lip gloss?

NICE: This is not a travelogue, but just the same, Manila is portrayed here as a dull city. Even when the characters date in several places, the film doesn't sell the place much.

ELVIRA: There should have been more establishing shots, I mean, Recto and Avenida are such colorful places. So many thieves and cellphone snatchers!

Reality bites

NICE: The film also tackles our manic desire to migrate, scattering our families and friends all over the globe, and our lingering fascination for foreign goods. "Imported *kasi*!" cries Roderick Paulate who plays Ryan's landlord while investigating an inside theft.

ELVIRA: Reality bites.

NICE: The only real connection I felt with Daisy and Ryan in the movie happens when they argue about money. "Gets *mo*?" Ryan asks. "Gets *ko*," Daisy answers. After resolving their financial argument, they hold hands and kiss. Their relationship moves to a level higher.

ELVIRA: I don't get that part. Ryan tells Daisy that when a couple date, the man always pays. My God! Daisy just wanted to pay for one scoop of ice cream, and it wasn't even Haagen Dazs!

NICE: Later in the movie, Ryan, who is unable to communicate well in either Filipino or English, declares his love for Daisy in Korean and everything's okay.

ELVIRA: It was a pleasant enough movie—if you're a teenager. Question is, can Sandara play roles other than a foreign exchange student? Either she learns to speak Tagalog like a native or, in her next move, play a mute or an alien like "Star Wars Episode I's" Jar-Jar Binks (Yipe! How wude!).

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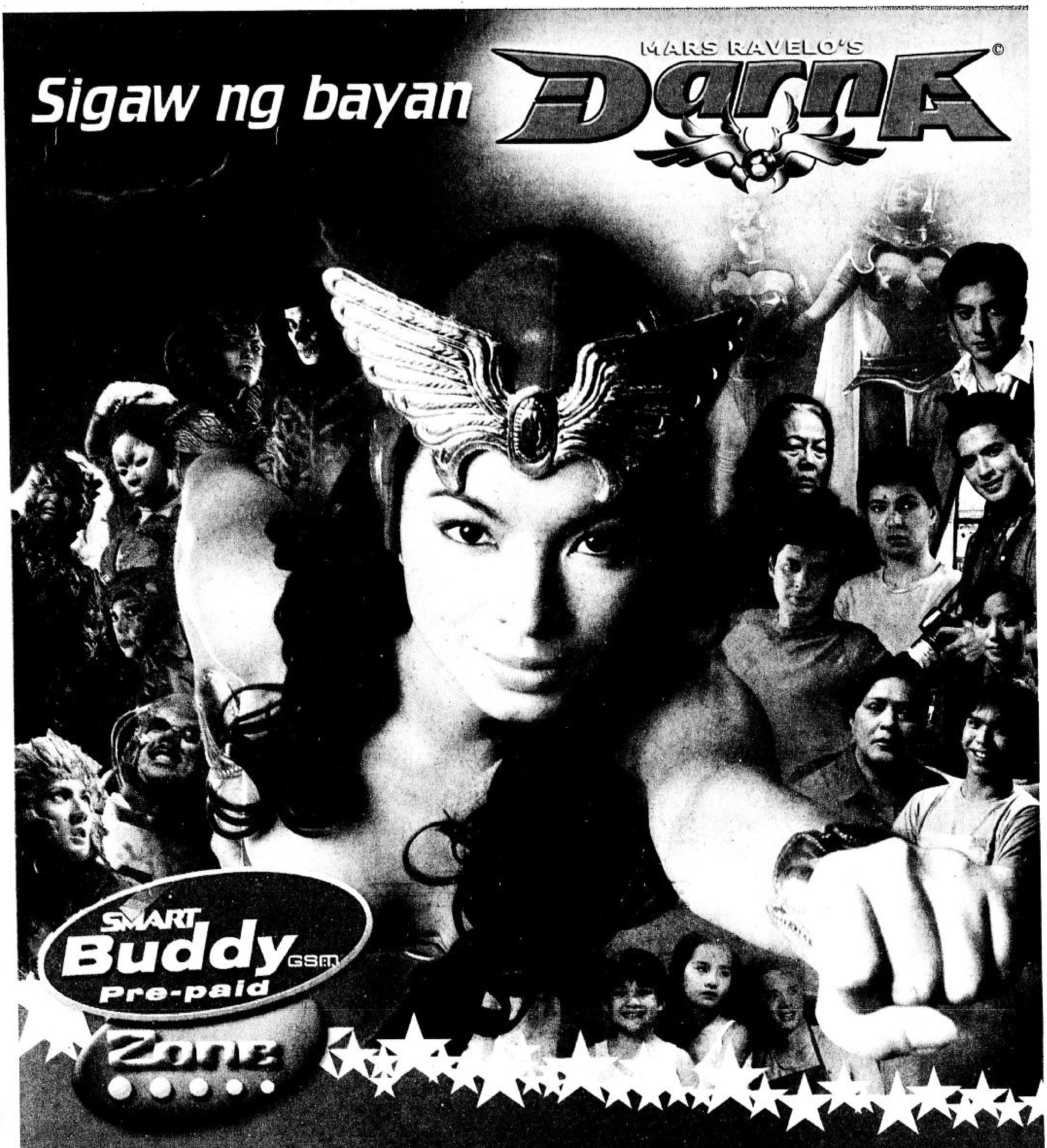

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

MADS Javellana's photo by famed photographer Wyg Tysmans

Passion for structure led to this lady's success

MADS celebrates the 80th birthday of her mom, Conching, with the rest of the clan

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AMADA 'Mads' J. Javellana's life is so structured she describes it as almost boring.

What she considers her high is having only 30 minutes of not doing anything in between schedules. "My spare time is also planned. When I go shopping I have a roadmap, there is no retracing of steps."

"It must be the accountant in me," laughs the fifty-something president of Diwa Asia Publishing, one of the country's biggest publishers of textbooks and scholastic magazines. "I even know when I am wrongly billed in my credit card" because she keeps an accounting of her expenses.

FIRST JOB

But her structured life may be her secret to success. Passion for structure was influenced by her mother, Constancia, who was widowed at a very young age with five children. Mads never met her father because he died when she was still in her mother's womb. Her mother did not know she was pregnant then.

Her father had no pension and all he left his wife other than his five children was a piece of property in Cubao that was not yet fully paid for and a lump sum from the Army. Mads' mother, a lady from Pampanga, returned half of the property as payment for the other half. Then, with the lump sum was built a three-door apartment and a *sari-sari* store.

The apartments and the store were the only means of income for the Javellanas.

But the store provided good training for the children. And their mother made sure they all learned about life early on.

"By grade 3, I would go to the market. That was where I learned my math. Each of us was tasked to watch the store everyday," Mads recalls. "This was because my mother felt the store would be bankrupt if we asked somebody to watch it."

School was a half-day affair so they tended the store in the afternoon. This was possible because classes at the University of Sto. Tomas were only half day. The girls went to school in the morning and the boys in the afternoon.

And her mother also had strict rules—they could only drink Pepsi when they were in high school already. During her younger years she drank Malayan soft drinks.

The sari-sari store was closed only once a year—on All Saint's Day when her mother would go home to Angeles where her father was buried

PASSION/ B2

MADS was born exactly nine months after her father passed away.

ACCEPTING her award as top trainee from Cora de la Paz, then senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan, and current president of SSS.

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A quick buck is not always a great thing

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHO am I? What's the meaning of life? Does God exist?

These were the questions that Allan Tibby grappled with as a 10-year-old in his native New Zealand, and his struggle to find the answers took him to faraway lands.

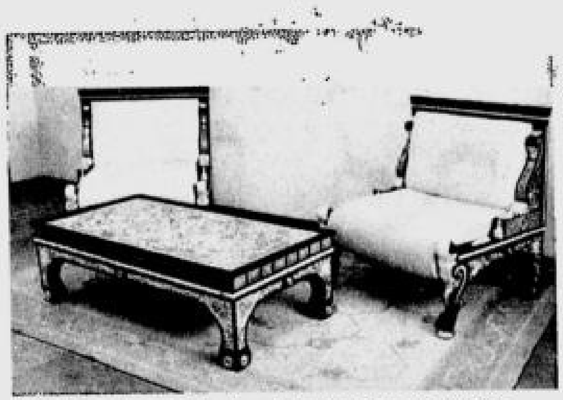
He first landed in India, where he picked up yoga, and eventually the Philippines where he got married, raised a family and ran businesses, such as DMX Technology, which distributes locally a new type of fuel that promises less harm on the environment.

Tibby tells SundayBiz in an interview that he first heard of the Philippines from his friend in India, who said that it was a nice place to visit because of its people and many natural attractions.

Ever the adventurous type, he acted on the suggestion. With a one-way ticket and a little more than $100 in his pocket, he made the journey in 1973.

"It was paradise. At that time, a trip from Caloocan to Makati only took about 20 minutes," Tibby says.

He found the Philippines not only good enough to visit, but compelling enough to settle in, especially after meeting his wife, Erlinda.


TIBBY once supplied stone inlay furniture to royalty

Tibby did work here and there to support himself and his growing family. But his first major business was Powermond Export Corp., which sold fashion accessories, largely made of a unique clay material sourced from New Zealand. His products found their way to high-end shops in the United States.

"My wife and I ran it for about six years. At one point we had over 400 people working in our factory. We later sold it to our biggest American buyer," Tibby says.

Tibby then moved into the production of furniture with stone inlays in partnership with a Lebanese, Robert Mouawad, who was one of the biggest players in that exclusive market.

Tibby developed a unique technology for the production of mosaic panels using semi-precious stones. These panels and furniture were installed in places and private jets in Brunei, the Middle East and Europe.

His close to six years in the furniture business gave him an intimate view of the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and a taste of the privileged life reserved for the royalty of Saudi Arabia and Brunei.

"I have seen things that you wouldn't believe. I've been to palaces where a main entrance is decorated with this huge bouquet of roses and each rose was carved out of African rubies. I saw Renoirs, Rembrandts and Monets," Tibby says.

TIBBY grows medicinal herbs, including Echinacea.

The opulence, however, failed to impress the New Zealander.

Instead, what he saw reinforced his belief that material wealth does not guarantee happiness.

He says many immensely wealthy people still feel utterly frustrated because no matter how much money and possessions they accumulate, they still do not find that one thing that will make them truly happy.

It is like sand, he says, that is perpetually slipping through their fingers.

"For me, happiness comes from my relationship with God and in helping others grow spiritually. That makes me happy," he says.

TIBBY (left) in Boracay with his family.

He says his world view was formed by his exposure to Eastern philosophy.

The yoga student is also a teacher of ancient Yoga philosophy and meditation. He is also a 2nd Dan black belt in Tae kwon do, a pioneer of bee farming, produces medicinal herbs including Echinacea, and an expert in Asian and Indian vegetarian cooking.

Tibby's life principles, which basically revolves around being one with the spirit, extend to the way he runs his business, which is why he finds himself turning down opportunities to earn a quick buck because they violate his beliefs.

He says this did not make him a "terribly successful person," but he is happy where he is. And at 53, he says he has no regrets over how his life has turned out, including his decision to join DMX Technology here in 2002.

"I believe that through technology, it is possible to transform the world, make a substantial profit and yet not cause harm," he says.

DMX Technology distributes a fuel developed by Oxonica Ltd., a spin-off unit of Oxford University, that has been proven to work as well as ordinary diesel, but with less impact on the environment.

The Philippines was chosen as the Asian launching pad for the technology in partnership with the Asian Development Bank's Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities program.

Tibby is spreading the gospel among jeepney drivers and local petroleum distribution companies to use the premium diesel, which is a product of cutting-edge technology to help protect the environment.

He stresses that while the premium diesel developed by Oxonica costs P2 more than the regular diesel, the reduction in fuel consumption will, in the long run, bring in savings with less air pollution.

For Tibby, that is always an investment worth making and a business worth doing.

Passion for structure led to this lady's success

PLAYING a round of golf

From page B1

to visit his grave.

And as her mother knew the value of work, so she valued education as well even if she herself only finished high school.

"We could take any course we wanted for as long as there was a licensure exam," says Mads. Thus everybody ended up in math and science courses.

Another rule of her mother was that her children will not work until they finished with their licensure exams. This was to ensure that everybody finished college. Only one of Mads' siblings, the only boy and middle child, did not finish school.

Being the youngest, Mads admits there was so much pressure on her to pass the CPA boards, as she was the last to study. "I was a basketcase."

And as her mother did with her siblings, during her review, she would always have a boiled egg and calamansi juice.

Other than her mother, there was another strong influence in Mads' life—a college professor who told his class: If you want to get training in an auditing firm, go for the big ones; and do not join a multinational company because you will never be number one. Join a budding Filipino firm.

"That stuck to my mind," she recalls.

After graduation she applied to all the big accounting firms but the first one who called her was Joaquin Cunanan & Co., a member firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

CONDUCTING in-house training

IN Camp Aguinaldo with friends right after the flight of then President Marcos (People Power I)

She stayed for a couple of years then she became involved in the rehabilitation of a garment firm, the Ding Velayo Export Corp. where she was made the treasurer.

But "I did not feel comfortable" because the CEO was a 70-year-old who called her "*Iha*." She says she preferred someone who more or less was her equal and whose thinking was the same.

In 1981, she got to know a group which included her current boss, Saturnino Belen, who was then setting up an electronics firm. The group eventually set up First Asia Venture Capital, a company involved in several Philippine-based businesses ranging from small- to medium-scale corporations. Mads is its managing director and treasurer. Likewise, she served as a director of Fastech, the first Filipino company to be listed in the main board of the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Despite her numerous involvements, structure remains constant in Mads' life. Her routine includes hearing Mass every morning, which she calls her "spiritual vitamins," then taking her "material regular vitamins."

She is in the office by 8 a.m. to do her paperwork until about 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to about 5 p.m., she "coaches people" and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. she goes back to her paperwork.

Mads says she has reached a point in her life where she is once more shifting priorities.

She describes that from one to 20 years old, she focused on education. From 21 to 50, she focused on herself, what she calls "reaping the harvest." And this included spending a fortune in Marie France to lose some 15 pounds over three years.

Now in her 50s, its "payback time." She feels she has to focus more on philanthropic work.

So structured is she that she even laid out her succession in the office and is ready to retire in a few years.

Not bad for a posthumous baby.

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or e-mail to: ***donna.bartolome@newyorklife.ph***

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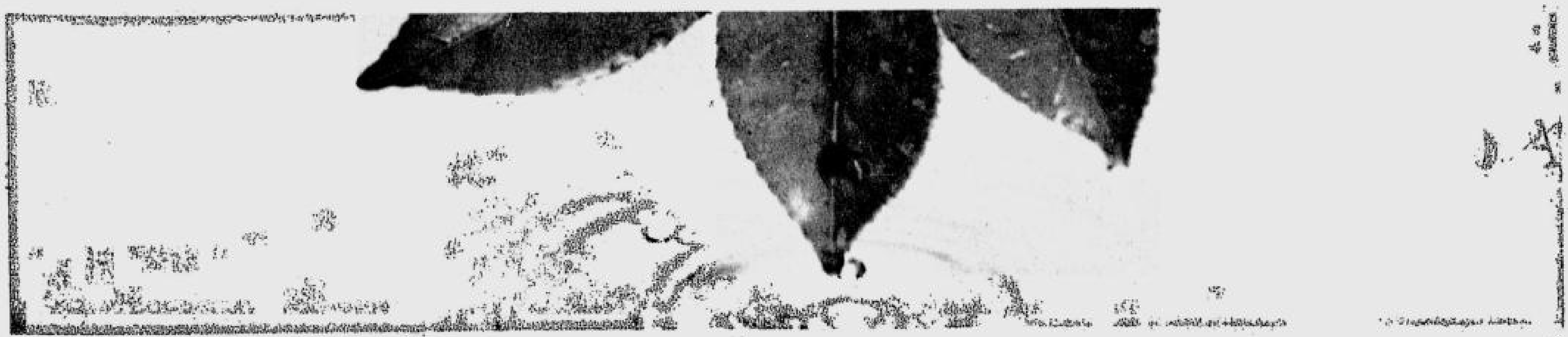

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Tagaytay International Convention Center
April 22,

Nathan Ray Gamban, Lexmark International (Philippines), Inc. Bottle Assembly Plant Manager receives the Mother Nature Award from Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. on April 21, 2005.

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President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presents the Hall of Fame - Outstanding Community Project and Outstanding Environmental Awards to Glenn S. Westerman, Lexmark International (Philippines), Inc. President & CEO on April 12, 2005. Looking on our Trade and Industry Secretary Juan B. Santos and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director-General Lilia B. de Lima.

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PCAPI: Sustainable and Unstoppable After A Quarter Centu
of Environmental Stewardship
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2005

Engr. Angelito Berdon, Lexmark International (Philippines), Inc. Circuit Assembly Plant Pollution Control Officer receives the Most Outstanding PCO Award from Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc on April 21, 2005.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that on Dec. 1, 2004, the National Capital Judicial Region, Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 64, Makati City, has issued a **Warrant of Arrest** in connection with **Criminal Case No. 331228** entitled "People of the Philippines versus **Donnabelle Alva, Accused**" for the arrest of the said accused **Donnabelle Alva**, wife of **Arnold A. Alva of Aerospan Travel and Tours, Inc.**, located at **No. 171, Alley 1, Project 6, Quezon City.**

Any information on her whereabouts leading to her arrest can be forwarded to Tel. No. 8331207 or cellphone No. 09172098956.

(PDI--April 23, 24, 30 & May 1, 2005)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Agent's Temporary Receipts (ATRs) listed below were reported lost/could no longer be accounted for:

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00382164; 00435913
00215101; 970601-50
00293701; 00363529
337101 – 337125

ATR SERIAL NO.:
00018026; 00024801; 00024776
00024751; 00030576; 00065751
00067226; 00078826; 00100001
00098926; 00096126; 00364026
00098301; 00125301; 00129551
00137226; 00132876; 00124701
00200251; 00137226; 00132876
00124701; 00200251; 00331576
00001551; 00347326; 00277801;
00321726; 00308201; 0033601
00343576-00343600; 00023101-25

Any transaction resulting from the issuance of the subject ATRs will not be honored by Philamlife after this publication.

PHILAM LIFE
United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **DULCE AMOR AGUINALDO DOLATRE** of # 106 Lourdes Street, Marcela, Caloocan City and whose picture appears above has been CONVICTED and found guilty of QUALIFIED THEFT by the RTC-Makati, Branch 134 in Criminal Case No. *01-1101*, entitled ***"People of the Philippines vs. Dulce Amor A. Dolatre"***. A reward will be given to any person who will give information for her immediate arrest. Please call Ms. Eden de Guzman at (0919) 622-43-40.

(PDI – May 1, 8 & 15, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ALEX O. DIMALANTA II

CORNELIA ROWENA C. ANGELES

CONSTANTINE M. NAVARRO

Notice is hereby given to the public that the persons appearing above have outstanding warrants of arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City, Branch 266, in connection with the prosecution of Criminal Case. No. 126735 to 37 entitled *"People of the Philippines vs. Alex O. Dimalanta II, Cornelia Rowena C. Angeles and Constantine M. Navarro"*. Any information regarding the whereabouts leading to the arrest of the above-named persons will be rewarded.

Any information relating to the foregoing may be communicated to:

ATTYS. CHRISTIAN ROBERT S. LIM AND
ROSS JOSEPH J. ROMANILLOS
LIM and OCAMPO LAW OFFICES
4th Floor, ACT Tower
135 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City
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(PDI – April 23, 24, 30 & May 1, 2005)

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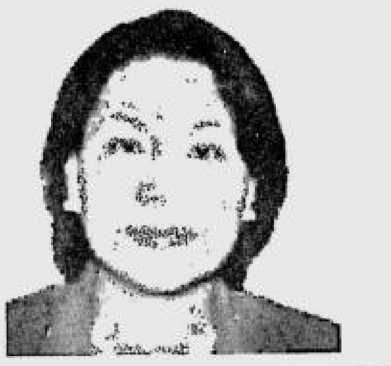
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MS. BRIGIDA AKA "AIDA" C. BAUTISTA whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with FORTUNE MEDICARE, INC. (FORTUNECARE) effective **April15, 2005**. Any transaction such as solicitation of membership or collection of premium or membership fee for and in its behalf shall not be honored by FORTUNECARE.

FORTUNE MEDICARE, INC.
3/f Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard
Pasig City

(PDI – May 1, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Forwarn that **MS. CHARITO R. HALABI** is no longer connected with **THE RED CRAB GROUP OF RESTAURANTS** effective April 22, 2005.

MS. HALABI violated company regulations pertaining to breach of trust and acts of disloyalty to the company.

Consequently, all transactions and documentation of **Ms. Halabi** in representation of the company shall be considered unauthorized, without force and effect and shall not be honored by the company.

THE RED CRAB GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

(PDI- May 1, 2005)

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture and appliances; office furniture and equipment; computers; scrap/junk supplies; and Chevy, S-10, Pick up on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected May 9-10, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the USAID Warehouse: 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City (Warehouse is located between EDSA and Airport road with a big gray gate beside PITC.). Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refund will be done starting May 12, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/ Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 851-4229, 851-4234/35 and 514-4236.

(PDI-April 30, May 1, 7 & 8, 2005)

Congratulations

Dr. Joshua B. Desiderio for having passed the recent Medical Board examination.

Dr. Gladys V. Samonte on her graduation from FEU-NHMF Institute of Medicine

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DPB extends P62-M assist to Nawad expansion

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines (DBP) granted recently P62-million loan to the Nasugbu Water District (Nawad) for the expansion of the watersupply of Nasugbu, Batangas.

The project will involve the construction of a pipeline system that will provide safe and potable water to an estimated 6,185 residents in Barangays Balaytigue and Natipunan. It will likewise complement efforts to further spur commercial activities in the area as it will also serve the water supply needs of resorts and commercial establishments such as the Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego.

DBP president and chief executive officer Reynaldo G. David said that the project is the first to be funded under the DBP Water District Loan Program, a partnership with the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) that seeks to address problems related to lack of or inefficiency of, essential water infrastructure facilities in the country due to financing constraints.

Under the DBP Water District Loan Prgram, creditworthy water districts (CWD), ,upon evaluation and recommendation of LWUA, can directly borrow from DBP for the construction or expansion of Level III water systems, purchase of equipment, and construction of building for water district operation.

"We are also evaluating three more projects amounting to about P226 million located in Sto. Niño, Cagayan; Davao; La Union. And to fast-track our support for this sector, we plan to work with more LGUs and water districts for the improvement and sustainability of water supply and sanitation projects," David added.

NFA conducts market inspection in Pampanga markets

IN AN effort to avert diversion and overpricing of rice in Central Luzon, the National Food Authority conducted market inspections in various public markets in San Fernando City and Apalit, Pampanga recently. Headed by NFA regional director for region III Nicolas Crisostomo and NFA Pampanga provincial manager Elvira Obaña, the inspections were held to check the availability and affordability of government rice in the market. Crisostomo said NFA rice remains at P16 per kilogram for the regular-milled and P18 per kilogram for the well-milled varieties.

Meanwhile, Crisostomo announced that revalidation of retailers' passbooks is being undertaken to assure that only active retail outlets will be given proper rice allocation. Meanwhile, manager Obaña urged the retailers, led by Grains Retailers' Confederation (Grecon) officers Ruben Miranda id Pampanga, Romeo Cunanan of San Fernando New Market and Lourdes Alfonso of Apalit, to help the agency in ensuring the stability of supply and prices of rice. Called on them to police their own ranks to avoid unscrupulous activities such as diversion of stocks, hoarding and overpricing. For more information on various NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927.

THE SCREENING AND SELECTION COMMITTEE
FOR THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) PRESIDENCY

announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR THE MSU PRESIDENT

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2. Must have an earned doctoral degree from a prestigious university
3. Preferably not more than 59 years old at the time of application
4. Has an outstanding, relevant managerial and administrative experience
5. Morally upright and has never been convicted of any crime

In addition, nominees or interested applicants are required to submit six (6) sets of the following documents:

A. Detailed curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents
B. Vision, mission, and management plan for the University
C. Full disclosure of all (pending or resolved) administrative, criminal and civil cases filed in any court or any private or government agency
D. Clearances from the following:
  - Sandigan Bayan
  - Civil Service Commission
  - Ombudsman
E. Medical Certificate
F. Neuro-Psychiatric Exam to be accomplished by any government health institution accredited by the Department of Health

Nominees or interested applicants are requested to submit the requirements not later than 24 May 2005 to:

DR. CRISTINA DAMASCO PADOLINA
Commissioner, CHED and
Chair, Screening and Selection Committee for the MSU Presidency
Commission on Higher Education
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 638-4870

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT PROGRAM in ARMM (CIDA-LGSP)

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Areas of Expertise *(partial list)*

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Community-Government Linkages
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Environmental Sustainability
Gender Equality Mainstreaming
LGU Peacebuilding Mechanisms
Local Economic Development
Local Government Financing, Revenue Generation and Management
Local Legislation, Policy Formulation and Enforcement
MIS / ICT
Natural Resource Development and Management
Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
Participatory Governance
Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation
Public Enterprise Development and Management
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Solid Waste Management
Water and Sanitation

Services Provided

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Project Evaluation
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Social Preparation, Community Mobilization, Community Organizing
Systems Installation
Technical Writing
Training and Workshop Management
Website Development and Management

Interested parties are enjoined to visit http://www.lgsp.org.ph/lgspa-lrp.htm. Please download and accomplish the **LRP Expertise Checklist** then send with a **LETTER OF INTENT** and **ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE** (including list of experts) and/or **RESUME/CV via E-MAIL** to lgspa.davao@gmail.com or lgsp11@lgsp.org.ph with **SUBJECT: LRP**. Telephone inquiries and follow-ups will not be entertained.

Kindly address to:

MS. MARION MACEDA VILLANUEVA
Canadian Field Program Manager
LGSPA – Program Management Office
Davao City

LGSPA is a joint undertaking of the Governments of the Philippines and Canada. The program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in partnership with the ARMM Regional Government (ARG). It is managed by Agriteam Canada Consulting Limited and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

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- Experience in high volume semiconductor industry.
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- Problem solving, leadership and teamwork skills are required
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- Willing to travel as needed (preferably w/ valid US visa).

The remuneration package and benefits will commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the selected candidates. Interested candidates may send resumé to irsea2005@yahoo.com. (Only short-listed candidates will be notified)

Int'l College of Dentists meet today

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists Philippine section will hold its 34th Bienvenido B. Eraña Memorial Lecture and Annual Business Meeting today at the Le Salon, The Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Malate, Manila. The program will include the memorial lecture by Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon, vice president for Health Finance Policy and Services Sector of Philhealth, the awarding of the ICD Medallion of Honor to 11 outstanding dentistry graduates of the different dental schools and universities in the country for 2004-2005, the 39th annual convoction and baquet, the induction of six new fellows to the College, Drs. Paul Vincent D. Achacoso, Mercedes Gelndora II, De Villa, Meryla T. Gonzales, Carlos D. Legislador, Luis Gerardo G. Sunico and Mgararet C. Tin, the awarding of the Life Membership Award to Fellows Adelaida I. Angeles, Romeo V. Kamantigue, and Natividad M. Granada, the symbolic turn-over of the presidency from fellow Ermelinda Sabater-Galang, outgoing president, to fellow Hermogenes Villareal.

Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile will induct ICD Philippine Section's new set of officers, Fellows Fatima S. Dizon, president-elect Leonor C. Lago, vice-president, Elizabeth C. Carrasco, secretary, Ma. Teresa D. Amador, treasurer, Marilyn A. Leung and Elisa G. Puzon, directors, Fellow Ermelinda Sabater-Galang is the immediate past president/ex officio while Master Primo E. Gonzales is the Councilman. Leonor Tripon-Rosero, chair of the Professional Regulations Commission, will be the guest of honor.

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VSO does not work by sending equipment, medical supplies or aid. It sends skilled people. VSO volunteers live and work at the heart of communities in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, exchanging ideas with the local people so that together, they can find lasting solutions to local problems.

VSO recognizes the power of individuals driven by their commitment to make a difference wherever they are. Through VSO Bahaginan, its National Partner Agency in the Philippines, VSO offers a unique opportunity for Filipino professionals to share their skills with some of the world's most disadvantaged people in other developing countries. If you're from 25 to 65 years old with at least 3 years of professional experience in Business & Management, Community & Social Development, Health, and Technical & Natural Resources, VSO Bahaginan can set you on course to one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

If the time is not yet right for you to volunteer, you can still help us build a fairer world. We also need people who are prepared to support us through donations or by taking part in our fundraising and awareness-raising activities, to help us in our work. VSO Bahaginan is not just about working overseas in another country. We also support national volunteering by building partnerships to strengthen and build the capacities of local volunteer organizations.

Share your skills where they really matter...
Be a VSO Volunteer!

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Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila, Philippines
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
E-mail Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph

SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

April 21, 2005

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids for the procurement and delivery of Hospital Supplies/ **Materials, 2nd semester, July-December 2005, and Hospital Service CY 2005.**

PRE-C form for the Hospital Supplies & Materials shall be made available upon presentation/submission of the following:

1. Authenticated copy of Supplier's Certificate of Registration w/ the certified list of accredited products
2. Authenticated copy of License to Operate (LTO) from BFAD for drugs/medical/laboratory supplies
3. Latest DTI/Mayors Permit
4. Letter of intent to participate the bidding
5. Authenticated copy of DBM G-EPS Certificate of Registration

at the Office of the Bids and Awards, 2nd flr. Rm. 20, Payward, San Lazaro Hospital on the following dates, upon payment of non-refundable fee of *Two Hundred Pesos (200.00), on May 2 to 6, 2005* between *8:30 am to 4:30 pm.* (Please look for Ms. Nitz S. Yia, BAC Office).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of duly ***accomplished Prequalification Statement*** shall not be later than *May 10, 2005.* Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS can be secured at the Office of the Bids & Awards, 2nd Flr. Payward, Room 20, San Lazaro Hospital on the following dates, and upon payment of non-refundable fees of:

• *Laboratory/Drugs/Medicines Supplies*	*Php 1,000.00 per category*	***May 9 to 20, 2005***
• *Medical Supplies/Gases & Oxygen*	*Php 500.00 per category*	*-do-*
• *Radiology/Dental/Dietary Foodstuff / Maintenance Supplies*	*Php 300.00 per category*	*-do-*
• *Janitorial Supplies*	*Php 100.00*	*-do-*
• *Security Service*	*Php 2,000.00*	*-do-*

PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the SACCL Conference Rm/ SLH Amphitheater Audio Visual Rm., San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

• *Laboratory Reagent/Supplies*	*(9:00 am)*	***May 12, 2005***
Drugs & Medicines Supplies	*(1:30 pm)*	
• *Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen*	*(9:00 am)*	***May 13, 2005***
Dietary Foodstuff/Dental Supplies	*(1:30 pm)*	
• *Janitorial/Radiology Supplies/*	*(9:00 am)*	***May 16, 2005***
Maintenance Supplies	*(1:30 pm)*	
• *Security Service*	*(9:00 am)*	***May 20, 2005***

OPENING OF BID must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified above, which said bids will be opened to the Public on:

• *Laboratory Reagent/Supplies*	*(9:01 am)*	***May 24, 2005***
Drugs & Medicines Supplies	*(1:31 pm)*	
• *Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen*	*(9:01 am)*	***May 25, 2005***
Dietary Foodstuff/Dental Supplies	*(1:31 pm)*	
• *Janitorial/Radiology Supplies/*	*(9:01 am)*	***May 27, 2005***
Maintenance Supplies	*(1:31 pm)*	
• *Security Service*	*(9:01 am)*	***May 31, 2005***

Each *BID* must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of not less than two and a half percent (2.5%) of Approved **Budget Cost per Item** or as indicated in the issued bid comments. Delivery of supplies is on staggered basis and bid validity is for six (6) months.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat, SLH-BAC, at telephone nos. 732-37-76 loc 207.

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **JOSE BENITO R. VILLARAMA, MD, MPH**
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

NOTED:

(Sgd.) **ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – April 24 & May 1, 2005)

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"Be near me when my light is low...
And all the wheels of Being slow.
Be near me when I fade away,
To point the term of human strife,
And on the low dark verge of life
The twilight of eternal day."

Alfred, Lord Tennyson "In Memoriam"

PURITA KALAW-LEDESMA

February 2, 1914 – April 29, 2005

Doctor of Humanities, *Honoris Causa*, University of the Philippines
Awardee, Gawad CCP Para Sa Sining
Awardee, National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Awardee, President's Pro Patria Award for the Promotion of the Fine Arts
Founder, Art Association of the Philippines
Art Patron, Writer, Businesswoman, Wife and Mother

Purita peacefully passed away in the company of her loved ones and in the grace of Our Lord. She is survived by her children **Rita Ledesma, Coni** and **Louie Jalandoni, Ada** and **Philip Mabilangan, Wally Ledesma;** her grandchildren **Ginny, Nicky, Lea, Leo** and **Shani, Pendong, Joey, Nana** and **Mio, Lisa** and **Damian**; and her great-grandchildren. Please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Capilla Del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

The Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 9:00 am at Santuario de San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Artists' Association of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. will be appreciated.

In Loving Memory
of the Second Death Anniversary of

ROLANDO V. CRUZ

who peacefully joined his Creator on May 6, 2003

His family and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows	May 6, 6 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	May 6, 6 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Church, Pasig	May 6, 6 p.m.
Holy Family Parish Church, Kapitolyo	May 6, 6 p.m.

BLANCA MEDINA MUTUC

Wife of Former Ambassador Amelito R. Mutuc (†)

Peacefully joined her Creator
on April 28, 2005
at the age of 78.

Her bereaved children **Chito** and **Inma, Corinna** and **Roger, Marie, Tap** and **Lilibeth, Vicky** and **Jag, Peter** and **Yvonne,** and **Paul** and **Trixie**; sisters and brother **Sagrario** (†), **Hideliza,** and **Juan**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her ashes lie in state at the St. Jerome Church in Alabang (Commercial) from Sunday, May 1 with Mass on Wednesday, May 4.

SIS GLICERIA JUBLE CAPUCION, P.W.M.

December 21, 1916 – April 30, 2005

MORNING STAR CHAPTER NO. 12
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

of San Francisco, USA & Tacloban City

The family, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Metro Park Funeral Parlor, Sagkahan, Tacloban City.

Interment will be at the Metropolitan Memorial Park, Palo, Leyte on May 3, 2005.

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In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

ARIEL S. DAVID

of Livingston, New Jersey
& Lubao, Pampanga

Who died in the Grace of Our Lord
on May 1, 2004

The family, sisters, in-laws & relatives request the pious readers to remember **Ariel** in their prayers.

Masses will be offered on May 1, 2005:

1. **Parish of St. Augustine** .... 7:30 am & 5:00 pm
   Lubao, Pampanga
2. **Holy Cross Parish** .... 8:00 am
   Sta. Cruz, Lubao, Pampanga
3. **St. Lucy Parish** .... 5:30 am
   Sasmuan, Pampanga
4. **Immaculate Concepcion Parish** .... 8:30 am
   Guagua, Pampanga
5. **St. Rita de Casia Parish** .... 8:00 am
   Sta. Rita, Pampanga
6. **Our Lady of Sorrows** .... 6:30 am
   Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pamp.
7. **Sacred Heart Parish** .... 7:30 am
   Telebastagan, City of San Fernando, Pamp.
8. **Holy Rosary Parish** .... 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
   Angeles City
9. **Metropolitan Cathedral** .... 8:00 am
   City of San Fernando, Pamp.

* * *

PANFILO M. ABENOJAR

Died peacefully in the Grace of the Lord on April 28, 2005 at the age of 94.

His children **Nelly & Roger, Lilian & Lino, Emma & Pete, Florence & Fred** & grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Inc.

Interment will be on May 3 at Himlayang Pilipino at 10:00 a.m.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

DR. PEDRO V. REGALADO

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 30th day of April 2005 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Dr. Edith Regalado**; children and childrens-in-law **Carl & Diane, Michael, Bernard & Eden, Lani & Jarmo, Annabelle** and **Tiffany**; grandson **Eman**; brothers and sisters and in-laws **Rudy & Dana, Inya, Riya & Proceso, Sinday & Boy, Jun & Monina** and **Tessie & Romy**; nephews and nieces **Roni, Ninian, Ryan, Lennie, Gretel, Hansel, Restie, Raymond, Nene, Shiela, Nino, Dennis, Jun-jun, Lady** and **Herbert;** other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel, No. 06 Carigma Street, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Friday, May 06, 2005 at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Park after the morning mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life" – John 11:25-26

COL. ALFREDO BRAVO DELA CRUZ, SR.

of TUAO, CAGAYAN and OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, USA

WWII (BATAAN) Veteran
U.P. Vanguard Class, 1950
PEFTOK 20th BCT

Born June 27, 1927
and Died in the grace of our Lord on April 20, 2005.

His loving wife **Rose**; children **Alfredo, Jr., Rosalie** and **Diosdado**; siblings **Dominador** and **Ester**; nephews, nieces, in-laws, grandchildren other relatives and friends request your kind prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels-Guadalupe, Makati City, Chapel C from April 30, 2005 to May 4, 2005 where Holy Masses will be offered daily at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be at the Libingan ng mga Bayani by high noon of Thursday, May 5, 2005.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Henry Louis Schnabel

April 18,1924 - April 29 2005

He will forever live in the hearts and minds of his loving wife

Carmina Rosales Schnabel

Children and grandchildren

Robert and Clarissa
Richard
Ralph and Marie
  Micker, Sabrina and Yani
Ron and Therese
  Danielle, Christina and Renee
Ray and Crystal
  Samantha and Shane
Roy and Maite
  Alex, Nicolas, Ana and Sofia
Cathy and Sumit
  Devan

He will also be remembered by his sister **Annie S. Gleason &family**, *his sisters-in-law* **Sofi Schnabel & family, Nenuca R. Santos & family, and Olive C. Rosales & family**

His remains will be lie in state at Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Mckinley Rd, Forbes Park, Makati City until Tuesday, May 3rd. when it will be brought home to Guam for burial.

VIOLETA VERDOTE BEDIONES

Joyfully went home to her Lord and Savior on April 29, 2005 at the age of 87.

She was married to **PIO A. BEDIONES** (deceased). Surviving her are: her sister **Amelia V. Completo**; children **Pia** and **Rico Roa**; **Marie** and **Peter Lee**; and grandchildren **Federico B. Roa IV, Meraiah B. Lee** and **Peter B. Lee, Jr**.

Her remains will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until May 2, 2005.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Evelyn Manuel San Gabriel

Has joined her Creator and peacefully rest in the infinitive warmth and embrace of our Lord on April 29, 2005 at the age of 52.

Her mother **Cecilia**; her loving husband **Mauro**; her loving children **Eva Maureen** & husband **Eugene, Joy** & **Karren**; her brothers & sisters **Bong** & wife **Liza, Malou** & husband **Abet, Marites** & husband **Ronnie**; her nephew **Paul**; her relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC. Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be determined later.

Ret. Col., PAF ANDRES P. ORQUIOLA

of Batan Aklan and Boston MA, USA

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 18, 2005 at the age of 92.

His deceased wife, **GERTRUDES SILVESTRE**; children **ALBERT & MEME, BELLA O. CLARAVALL, CARLOS & GLORIA, DANILO & MILLIE, EDGAR & CONNIE, JOJO & FLORD (+), ANTONIO & GRACITA,** and **HENRIETTA**; his loving wife **MARIA PADIOS PERLAS**; stepchildren, sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

Interred at St. Mary Cemetery in Randolph MA, USA on April 23, 2005.

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PASAY

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QUEZON CITY

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VIRGILIO LEMI HAFALIA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs and entered in the Notarial Register of Notary Public Atty. Almel S. Mangandog under Doc. No. 118; Page No. 24; Book No. IX; Series of 2005. (PDI-April 17, 24 & May 1, 2005)

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ALBAY

Lot 1 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA3,464sqm Lot nos. 2041-A & 2041-B Along Regidor & Lakandula Sts., Brgy. Binitayan, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price P13,163,200.00

Lot 2 – Res'l. Lot LA 500 sqm
Lot 2559-H-4, Brgy. San Lorenzo, Tabaco City
Minimum Bid Price P 212,500.00

Lot 3 – Comm'l. Lot
LA17,859sqm Lot Nos. 1338-A-1 to A-4 & 1340 Peñaranda Ext., Brgy. Bonot, Port District, Legaspi City
Minimum Bid Price P23,543,775.00

BATANGAS

Lot 4 – Res'l. Lot LA 540 sqm
Lot 4 Malvar St, Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,025,000.00

Lot 5 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 311 sqm, FA 240 sqm
North side of Taal Cuenca National Road, Brgy. San Jose, Alitagtag
Minimum Bid Price P 684,200.00

Lot 6 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 884sqm, FA 121sqm
Hernandez St, Brgy. II, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 2,168,657.00

Lot 7 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 407sqm
V. Templo St, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 2,831,340.00

Lot 8 - Res'l. Lot LA 150 sqm
L7 Victorнar Subd, Brgy. 4, Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 357,000.00

Lot 9-Agricultural Lot LA50,000sqm
Bo. Pinagkawilan, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P11,250,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Burgos St, Lipa Royale Subd, Brgy. Inosluban, Lipa City
Lot 10 – L11 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 11 – L12 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 12 – L13 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 13 – L21 Blk5 LA 265 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 788,375.00
Lot 14 – L78 Blk5 LA 303 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 901,425.00

Lot 15 - Industrial Lot LA76,014sqm
Lot 14585 Brgy. Road, Brgy. Talisay (North), Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 7,601,400.00

Lot 16 – Res'l Lot LA 6,501 sqm
Along the Northeast side of Brgy. Road, Brgy. San Sebastian, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 5,525,850.00

Lot 17 – Res'l Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 Blk7Anastacia St, Villa Rosa Subd,BrgyAntipolo del Norte,LipaCity
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800.00

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 18 – L6 Blk22 LA 227.82 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 553,850.00
Lot 19 – L15 Blk22 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 346,500.00
Lot 20 – L17 Blk22 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 21 – L7 Blk28 LA 162.41 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 357,302.00
Lot 22 – L9 Blk28 LA 167.37 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 368,214.00
Lot 23 – L4 Blk27 LA 155.40 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 341,880.00
Lot 24 – L5 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00

BATANGAS

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 25 – L6 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 26 – L7 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 27 – L9 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00

Lot 28 - Res'l. Lot LA 271 sqm
Lot7 East side of existing road Bo. Sta. Rita, Batangas City
Minimum Bid Price P 460,700.00

Res'l Lots, Rancho Vista Subd, Brgy. Santiago, Santo Tomas
Lot 29 - L19 Blk1 LA 867 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,820,700.00
Lot 30 - L3 Blk5 LA1,011sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,123,100.00
Lot 31 - L16 Blk5 LA 725 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,522,500.00
Lot 32 – L44 Blk5 LA 469 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,055,250.00

Res'l. Lots, Las Villas de Aguila,Brgy. Bagong Sikat, Poblacion, Lemery
Lot 33 – L8 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 34 – L18 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 35 – L21 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 36 – L22 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 37 – L24 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 38 – L26 Blk6 LA 180 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 432,000.00

Lot 39 - Res'l /Comm'l Lot
LA 5,000 sqm
Lot A-4 Tagaytay-Nasugbu road, Brgy. Niyugan, Laurel, Batangas
Minimum Bid Price P 7,000,000.00

CAMARINES SUR

Res'l. Lots, Monte Cielo de Naga Ph2, Brgy. Del Rosario, Naga City
Lot 40 – L31 Blk4 LA 216 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 427,680.00
Lot 41 – L2 Blk1 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 459,000.00
Lot 42 – L3 Blk1 LA 398 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 788,040.00
Lot 43 – L4 Blk1 LA 358 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 708,840.00
Lot 44 – L7 Blk1 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 403,920.00

Lot 45-Res'l/Comm'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 211sqm
Lot 745-C SE side of M. Roxas St., Bo. San Pascual, Buhi
Minimum Bid Price P 2,110,000.00

CAVITE

Res'l Lots, Tagaytay Royale Subd Ph2-A, Brgy. Malabag, Silang & Kaytitinga, Alfonso
Lot 46 – L6 Blk14 LA 264 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 739,200.00
Lot 47 – L7 Blk14 LA 293 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 820,400.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vill., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Lot 48 – L42 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 49 – L43 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 50 – L44 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 51 – L46 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 52 – L52 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vil., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Lot 53 – L53 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 54 – L54 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 55 – L55 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 56 – L58 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 57 – L59 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 58 – L60 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00

Lot 59 -Agricultural Lot LA 5,852sqm
Lot 15006, Along Brgy. Road of San Nicolas,Brgy San Nicolas,SanPabloCity
Minimum Bid Price P 5,637,891.00

Lot 60 – Comm'l. Lot LA 4,000sqm
Brgy San Gabriel, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 16,451,100.00

Lot 61 – Res'l. Lot LA 523 sqm
C. Brion cor Sgt. De Roma Sts, Brgy.III, Poblacion, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,133,750.00

Lot 62 - Res'l. Lot LA19,820sqm
Lot 3 Along Brgy. Road, San Marcos, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,858,125.00

Lot 63-Res'l/ Agri. Lot LA47,096sqm
Lot 14922, 14924, 14921-C, 14921-B, Along Bo. Road, Brgy. San Nicolas & San Crispin, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 10,361,120.00

Res'l. Lots, Makiling Heights Resort Subd, Brgy. Dampalit, Los Baños
Lot 64 – L30 Blk5 LA 181 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 425,350.00
Lot 65 – L32 Blk5 LA 242 sqm
MiniSum Bid Price P 580,500.00
Lot 66 – L9 Blk6 LA 202 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 474,700.00
Lot 67 – L10 Blk6 LA 189 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 444,150.00
Lot 68 – L63 Blk8 LA 380 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 893,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Laguna Hills, Brgy. Bucal, Calamba
Lot 69 – L50 Blk14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300.00
Lot 70 – L51 Blk14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300.00
Lot 71 – L78 Blk14 LA 452 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,401,600.00
Lot 72 – L79 Blk14 LA 294 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 882,000.00
Lot 73 – L83 Blk14 LA 446 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,338,000.00

Lot 74 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 20,000 sqm
Brgy. Sto. Tomas, Calauan
Minimum Bid Price P 11,131,920.00

QUEZON PROVINCE

Lot 75 – Res'l. Lots LA 997 sqm
L4&5 Blk7San Antonio St, Lourdes Subd, Brgy. Isabang, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,869,375.00

Lot 76-Res'l/ Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,249 sqm L2-4 Blk1Dincor Fishing Cmpd., De Mesa Rd, Brgy. Dalahican, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,061,650.00

Lot 77 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 253sqm, FA 220sqm
#6 Diamond St., Pleasantville Subd, Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,822,339.00

Lot 78 – Res'l. Lot LA 551 sqm
L37-33 A. BonifacioSt,Poblacion,Pitogo
Minimum Bid Price P 125,188.00

QUEZON

Lot 79 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 3,642sqm, FA 104 sqm
L3 Blk1 Provincial Rd, Brgy. Malaoa, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price P 2,079,300.00

SORSOGON

Lot 80 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,293 sqm Lot no. 4 Luna Ext., cor. Rizal St. and Roxas Ext., Brgy. Balud del Sur, Gubat
Minimum Bid Price P 1,293,000.00

Lot 81 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA923sqm Lot3156,JB CinemaBldg., Burgos St., Brgy. Talisay, Sorsogon
Minimum Bid Price P 8,099,036.00

Lot 82 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,752 sqm Lot 5-D Luna St., Brgy. Una Candol Gubat
Minimum Bid Price P 8,256,000.00

TAGAYTAY

Res'l. Lots, Crosswinds Subd., Brgy. Iruhin
Lot 83 – L9 Blk 1 LA 779 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,089,750.00
Lot 84 - L11 Blk 1 LA 952 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,998,000.00
Lot 85 – L13 Blk 1 LA 838 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,399,500.00

Lot 86 – Res'l/ Comm'l. Lot
LA 20,034 sqm
Lot 2-E, Interior Lot thru perpetual right of way, Brgy. Tolentino
Minimum Bid Price P 27,045,900.00

Lot 87 – Res'l. Lot LA 204 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 22 Buenavista Hills Subdivision, Phase I, Brgy. Tolentino
Minimum Bid Price P 846,900.00

Res'l. Lots, Tropical Green Subd., Brgy. Patutong Malaki
Lot 88 – L6 Blk 5 LA 246 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 934,800.00
Lot 89 – L5 Blk 8-A LA 254 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 965,200.00
Lot 90 – L7 Blk 9 LA 252 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 957,600.00
Lot 91 – L9 Blk 9 LA 252 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 957,600.00
Lot 92 – L13 Blk 9 LA 270 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,026,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

Lot 93 –Res'l. Condo. FA 186 sqm
Unit1404 Chateau de Baie Condo Roxas Blvd cor Airport Rd, Baclaran City (near airport)
Minimum Bid Price P 3,903,270.00

Lot 94 – Res'l. Lot LA 356 sqm
Lot12 Blk14 Cadena de Amor St.United Parañaque 4, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,330,000.00

Lot 95 –Res'l. Condo. FA 136 sqm
Unit301 Makati South Hills Arcade,East ServiceRd.Brgy Balagbag (near airport)
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 96 -Res'l. Twnhse LA118.35sqm
Unit4-A Alpha Victoria Homes 14th St. cor Victoria Ave. Brgy. Damayan Lagi, New Manila (near St. Luke's Hosp.)
Minimum Bid Price P 7,224,000.00

Lot 97 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt,
LA 77 sqm, FA 97.50 sqm
Rd Lot 649-C-4-C Towerville Homes Brgy. Cubal (near UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 1,019,200.00

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Young Image Course

Young Image Course

Participants to the Young Image Course 2005 shown above will have a culmination show on Friday, April 29, 4 pm at the World Trade Exchange Building. Conducted by MSD Personality Development Consultants in Cooperation with W T E. The culmination show will feature a fashion show sponsored by Street Jeans and Shirts, Corum Jeans, Garfield, Napoleon, Mickey for kids, Maui and Sons and Zygzygy. Enrollment for the second batch is ongoing. Call 241-0042 for inquiries.

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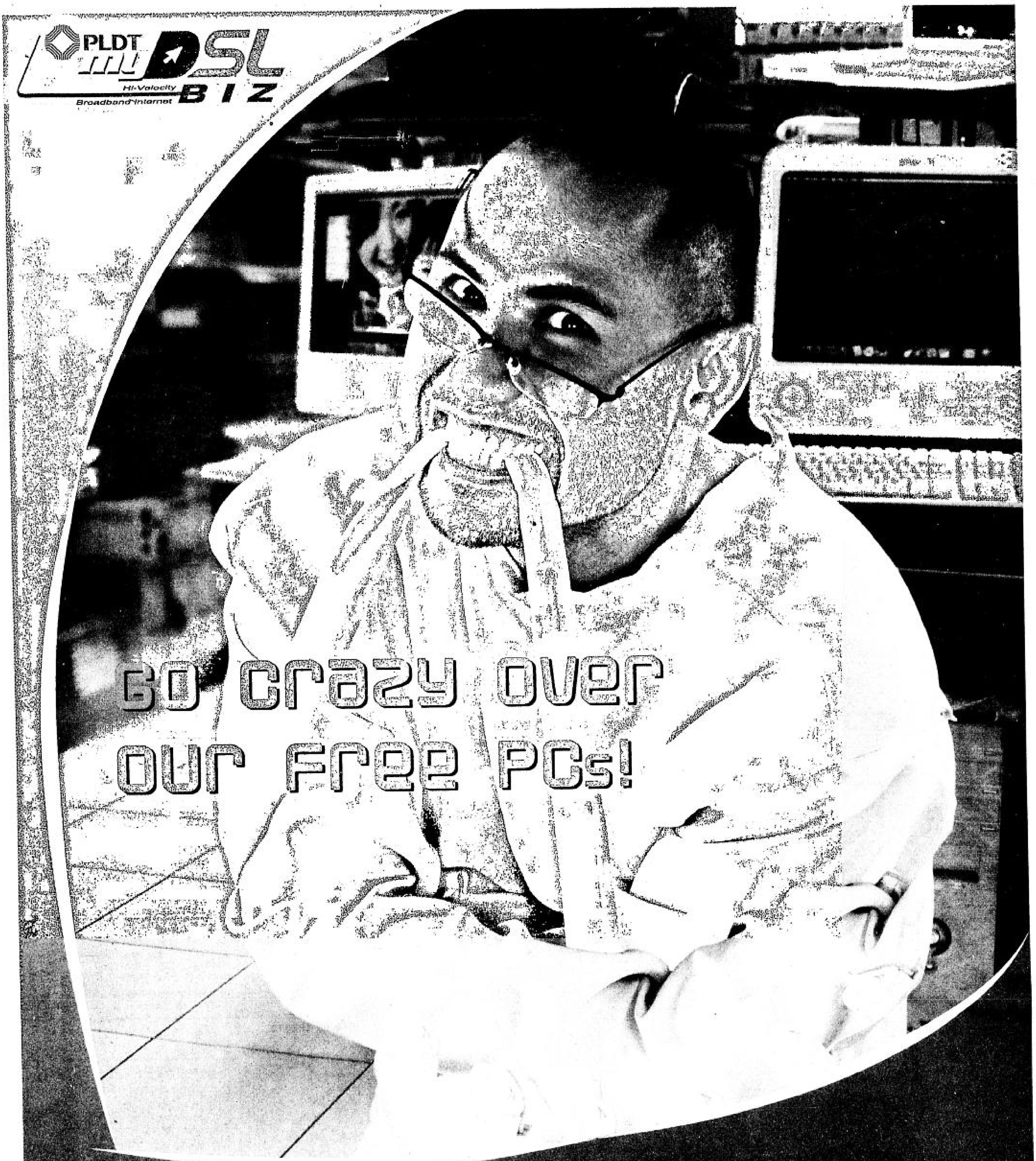

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

A FOODIE'S TOKYO

The handsome but un-naked chef of the famous Cirkulo restaurant takes us on a delicious tour of the Tokyo food scene

WET and wild in the wet market

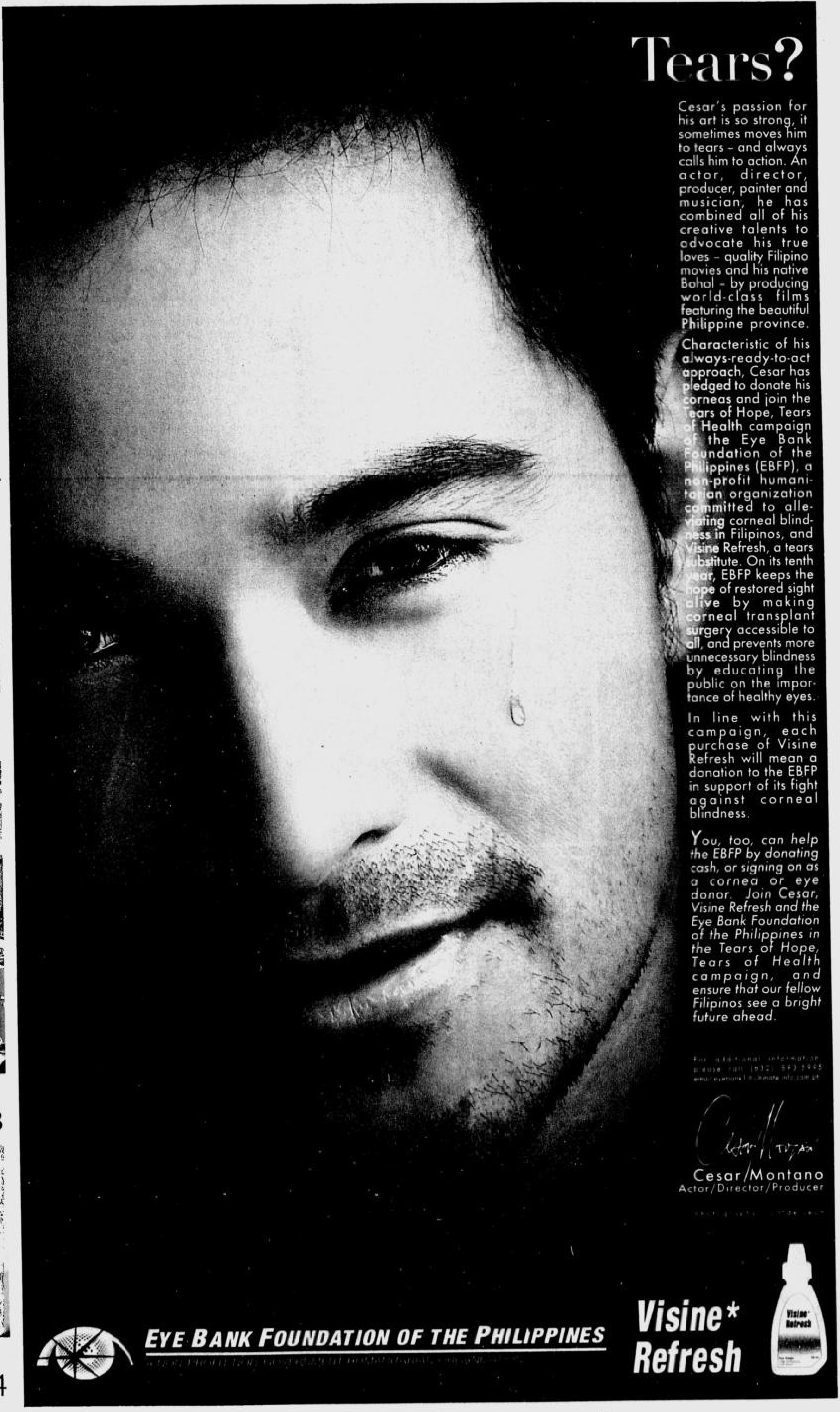
/C2

GETTING real with eels

/C3

ULTIMATE dining guide

/C4



Tears?

Cesar's passion for his art is so strong, it sometimes moves him to tears – and always calls him to action. An actor, director, producer, painter and musician, he has combined all of his creative talents to advocate his true loves – quality Filipino movies and his native Bohol – by producing world-class films featuring the beautiful Philippine province.

Characteristic of his always-ready-to-act approach, Cesar has pledged to donate his corneas and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

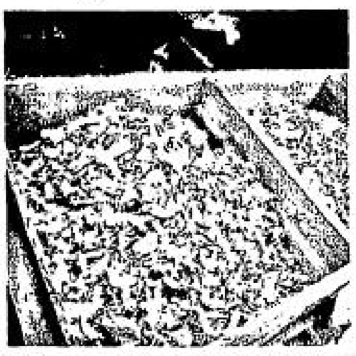
In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

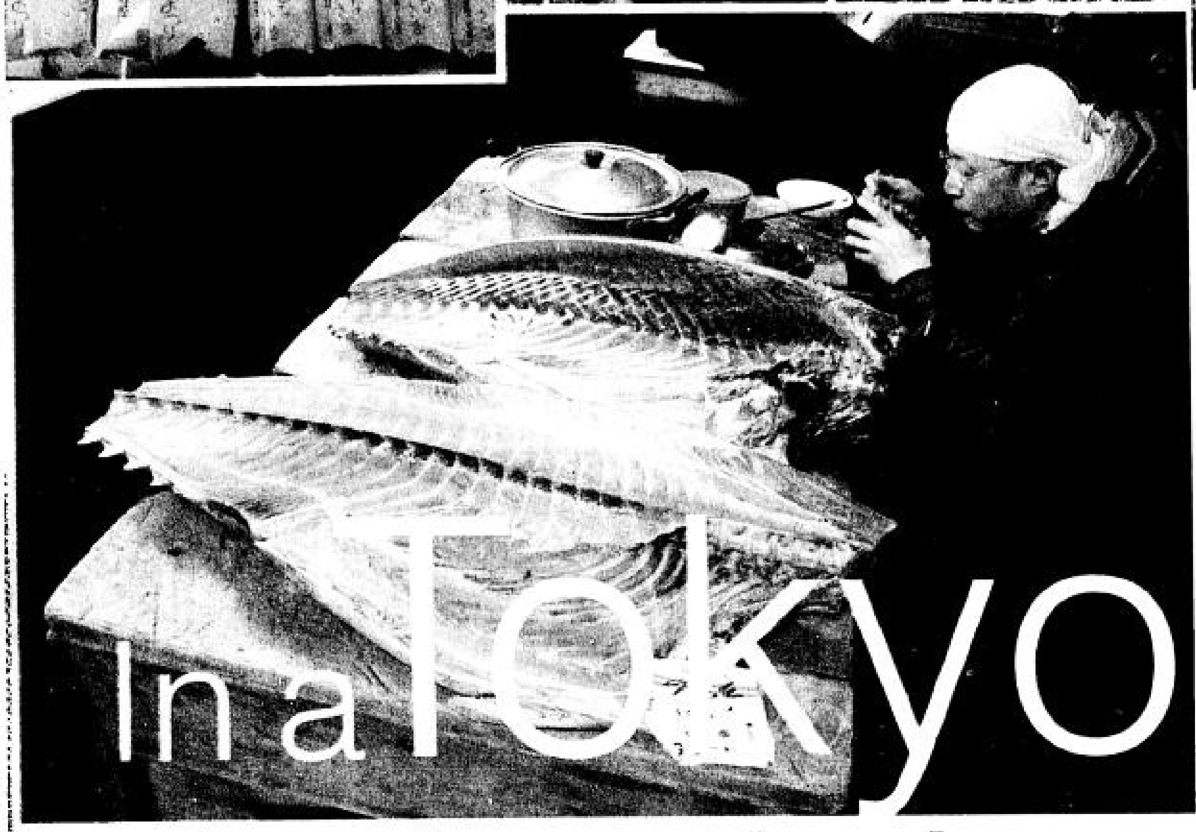
You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Cesar, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

Cesar/Montano
Actor/Director/Producer

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

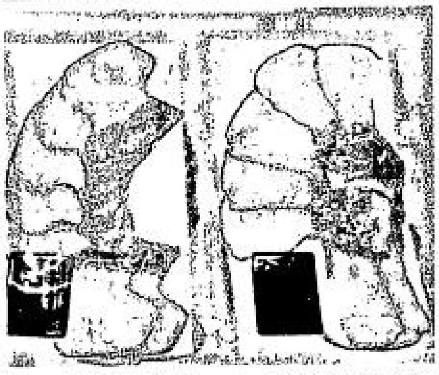
Visine* Refresh





In a Tokyo 'palengke'

It's your typical wet market where auctioning starts early



Text and photos by J. Gamboa

I'VE seen quite a few markets. The more memorable ones are the Rungis Market in the outskirts of Paris, Rialto Market in Venice and Chatuchak in Bangkok. From a chef's perspective, the market defines the cuisine of a particular area, so a visit there is always quite helpful. One gets an idea of what foods are essential to a particular culture, which helps a lot when deciding what to order at a local restaurant!

Recently, I had the pleasure of accompanying Tsukiji and Azuma-ya restaurants' chef Yusuke Katayama to Tokyo's Tsukiji Market (pronounced skee-jee) for his bi-monthly shopping trip. I figured that I would join Papa San on this trip since it had been 10 years since my last visit to Tsukiji Market. It would be a chance for me to see, smell and taste what was new at the biggest fish market in the world.

Tsukiji Market has been at its present location just off Ginza since 1923 after the Great Kanto Earthquake destroyed the Nihombashi Market. If you want to see any action, you must be there bright and early. If you're interested in the actual fish auction where tons of frozen tuna change hands for millions of yen, that starts at 3 a.m. Since that is a little too early for most of us, being there at 7 a.m. is just about right to catch the retailers sell their wares fresh from the auction.

The market is divided into areas: vegetables, beans, pickles, fishcakes, meats, china, knives, restaurants and, of course, fish, which is actually the largest space. The fish area is further organized into shellfish, eel (*unagi*), squid, sea urchin (*uni*), crabs, shrimp, fish and tuna. Every imaginable edible sea creature from any part of the world is here. It is the "United Nations" of seafood!

After a couple of hours of placing orders, it was time for breakfast! And what better place to have seafood than at the world's largest fish market! We made our way to one of the "food stalls" located just outside the fish area. Breakfast at Tsukiji Market is more akin to a five-star Japanese dinner but without the trimmings and price tag.

No scrambled eggs and toast here, but rather fresh shucked oysters for the *kaki furai*, heaping bowls of rice covered with *uni* (sea urchin roe) and freshly grated wasabi, tempura *moriawase* (assorted tempura) with different species of prawns and, of course, sushi and sashimi.

No English is spoken here. It is essential you bring a local, or you will have to resort to pointing at what the next table is having, which isn't a bad idea either. A typical meal would run you about 1,000 yen (about P500) inclusive of tea, miso soup, pickles and your choice of main course.

Next time you find yourself in Tokyo, make a trip to Tsukiji Market. Don't forget to bring your appetite and a local if you can. Tsukiji Market is best accessed from Tsukijishijo Station on the Subway Oedo Line or Tsukiji Station on the Subway Hibiya Line or take a cab.

CLOCKWISE from top left: *Itawasa*, fish cake for kids; *hamachi*, yellowtail; *katsuboshi*, dried tuna shavings; wasabi—the real thing!; tuna heads; Papa-San working out with tuna; whale bacon, tastes like fishy pork; J Gamboa with Mama-San of the best *kaki furai* restaurant in Tsukiji Market; soy sauce dishes in all shapes; eating on the job at Tsukiji Market

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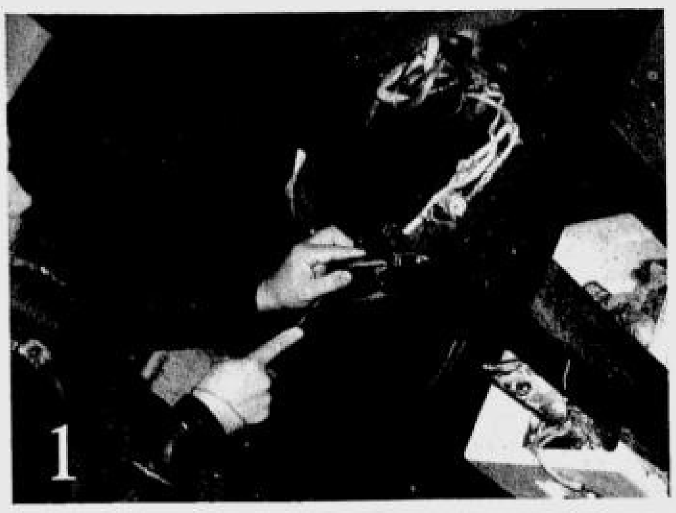
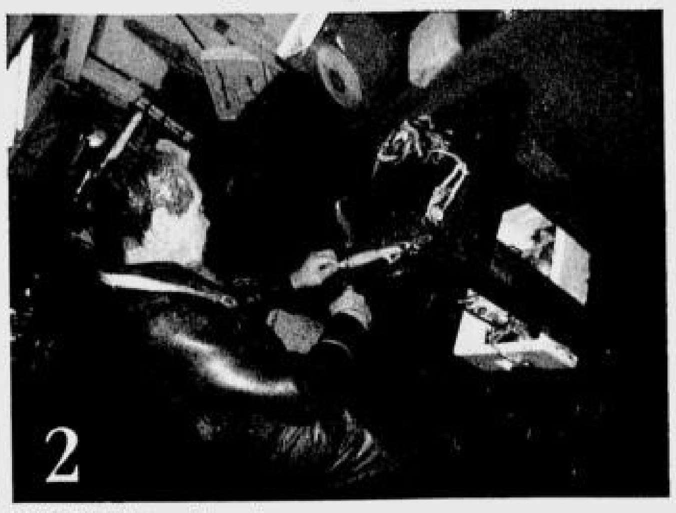
3541-0495
内線 73

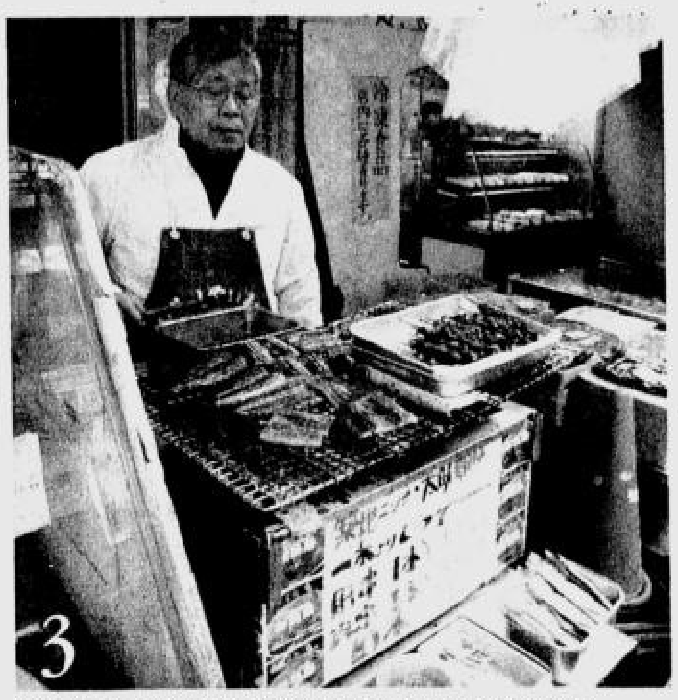
CLOCKWISE from top left: The first Yoshinoya; the queue for breakfast starts early here; J Gamboa with octopus; Japanese bean store; *sinamak*, Japanese style; Popsie Gamboa borrows a mini pick-up truck.



SECURE eel with a metal spike, then fillet.



REMOVE fillets and innards.



SKEWER the eel fillets and livers, baste in sauce and grill over charcoal.

Unagi step by step

It's eel-y delicious!

By J Gamboa

UNAGI or grilled eel is one of my favorite Japanese dishes, whether served on a bed of rice (*unadon*), in skewers (*kabayaki*), or on sushi rice (*unagizushi*). It's hard not to enjoy the different textures and flavors of the sweet-salty tender flesh, crispy and smoky charcoal-grilled skin, and the almost buttery fat. It's a meal hard to beat!

Like most seafood, if you want to taste it at its best, you have to get it fresh… alive and kick'n! At Tsukiji Market, you will find a lot of eel stalls with only this in mind! You can imagine that eels are very hard to handle.

For starters they resemble snakes and are super slippery. With a firm and swift grip, one has to pick up the eel from a bucket and drive a metal spike through its head onto a wooden chopping board.

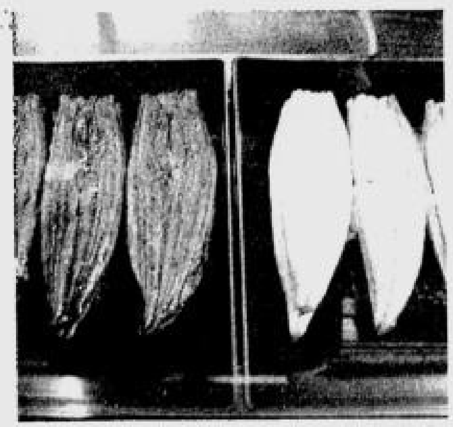
Once steady, the eel must be filleted with only one stroke for each side. Only the fillets and liver are kept, head, spine and entrails discarded.

After a quick rinse, the eel fillets and eel liver are skewered, basted in sauce and grilled over charcoal.

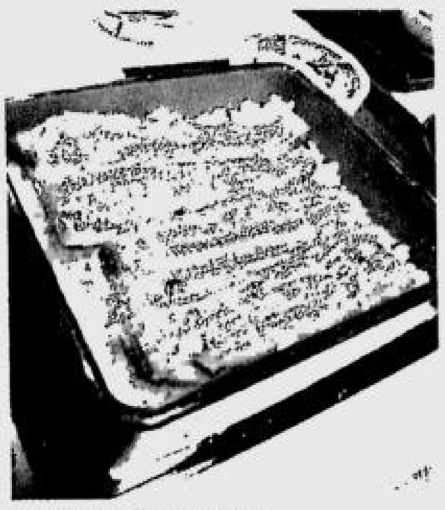
Grilled eel without sauce (*shirayaki*) is also available, usually reserved for the purists. But before biting in, *shanso* pepper, ground seeds of the Japanese prickly ash tree, is added to provide a pungent and lemony tang to the dish.

In Manila, you may enjoy *unagi* at Azuma-ya and Tsukiji Restaurants, both at the Milky Way Building, 900 A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road) corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, tel. 8176252 (Azuma-ya), 8434285 (Tsukiji).

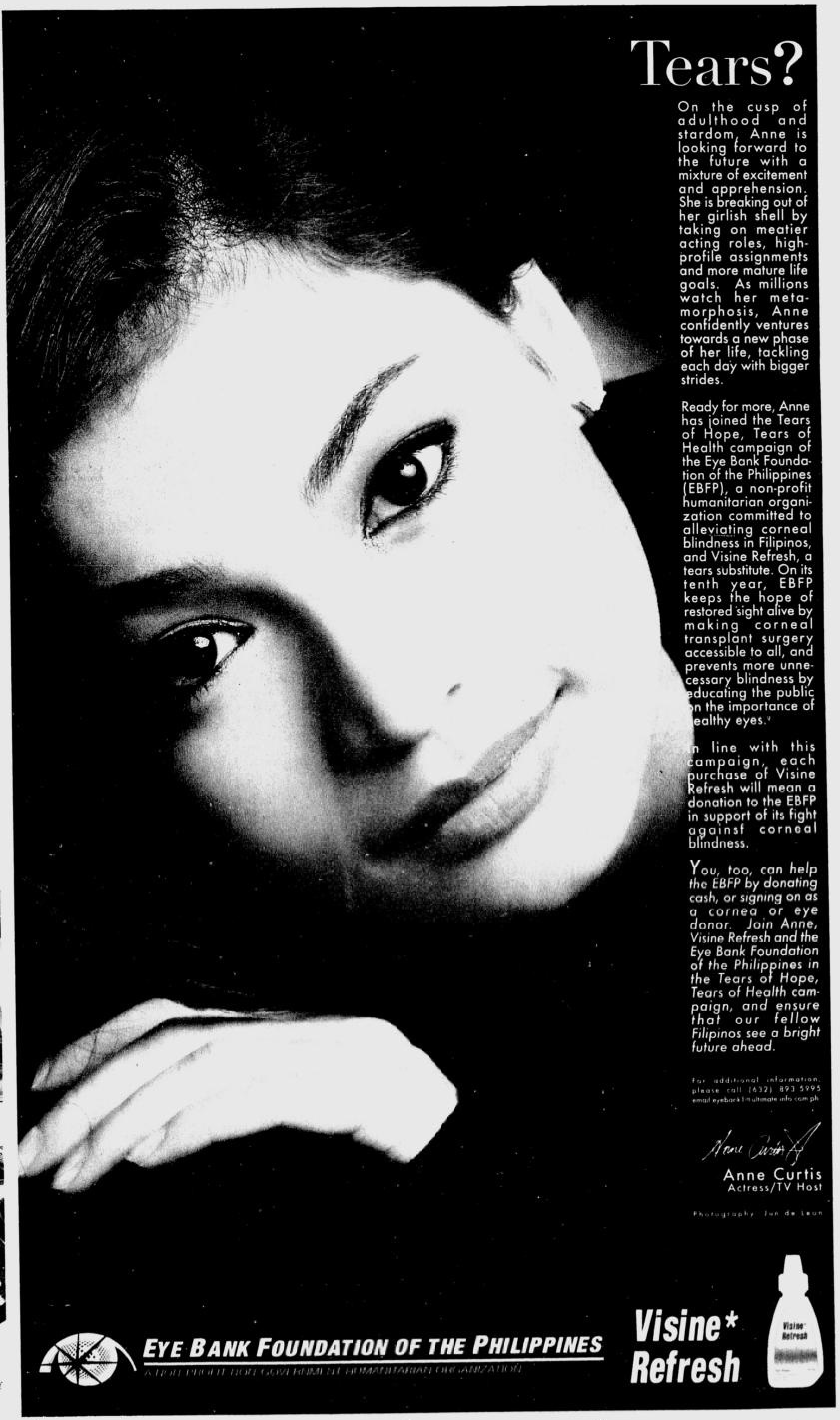
GRILLED Eel Livers (Kimoyaki) and Grilled Skewered Eel (Ikada-yaki)



GRILLED Eel with Sauce (Kabayaki), Grilled Eel without Sauce



UNADON—Eel Over Rice


Tears?

On the cusp of adulthood and stardom, Anne is looking forward to the future with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. She is breaking out of her girlish shell by taking on meatier acting roles, high-profile assignments and more mature life goals. As millions watch her metamorphosis, Anne confidently ventures towards a new phase of her life, tackling each day with bigger strides.

Ready for more, Anne has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Anne, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893 5995 email eyebank@ultimate info.com.ph

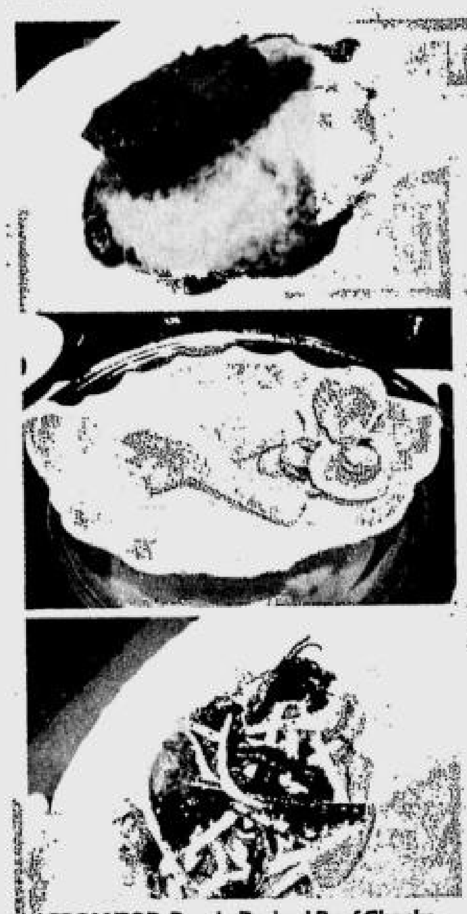
Anne Curtis
Actress/TV Host

Photography Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh

Primo Bacio



FROM TOP: Barolo Braised Beef Cheeks with Risotto Milanese; Roasted White Asparagus with Steamed Scallops in Shell; Linguine with Baby Squid and Broccoli Rabe

Roppongi Area
1-10-6 Nishiazubu, Minato-Ku
Tokyo, Japan p.c. 106-0031
Call 03-5413-3133
Visit www.primobacio.jp

When traveling, I can eat the local food almost indefinitely. There's a lot to taste with so little time. A couple of weeks before this trip, one of my clients at Cirkulo introduced me to their friend, Japanese master potter Shozo Michikawa.

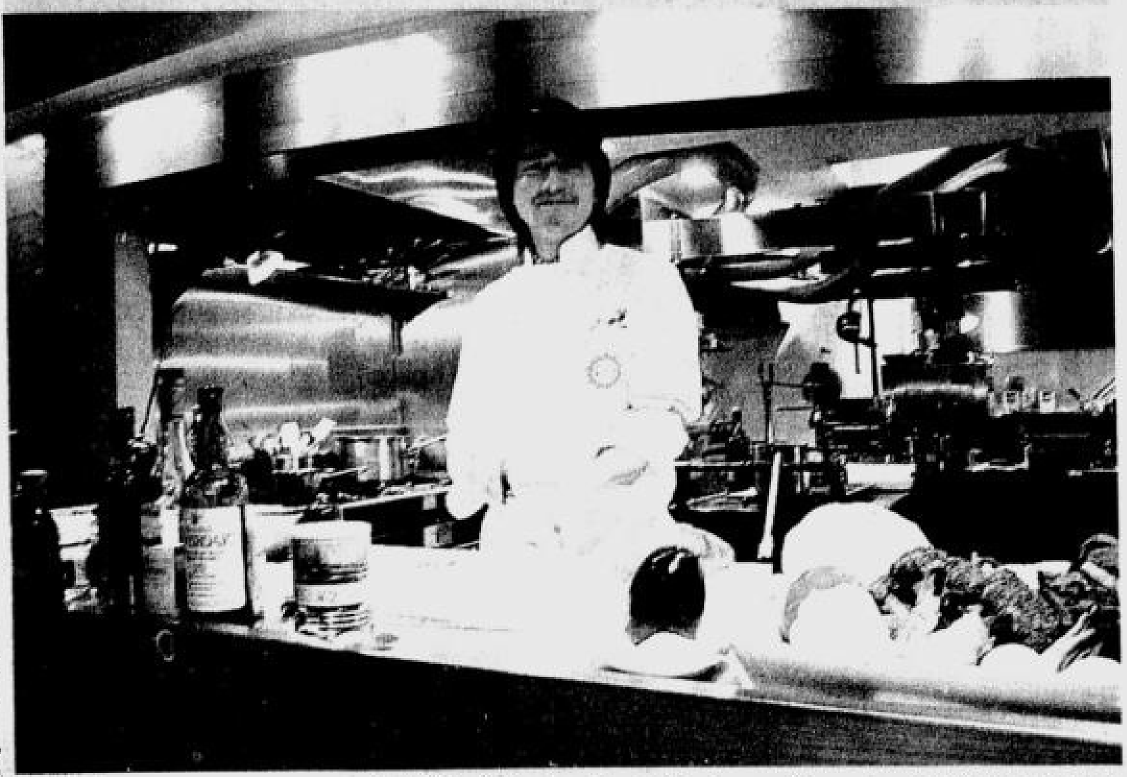
I told Michikawa-San of my impending trip and he insisted that I meet his friend, Yuichi Fujimoto, who happens to own an Italian Restaurant in Roppongi (as well as a Maserati Quattroporte!).

And that is how I met chef Yoshimi Shirai and his food. For dinner he prepared: Cream of Potato and Leek; Salad of Baby Arugula, Fresh Sea Urchin Roe and Red Snapper Carpaccio; Roasted White Asparagus with Steamed Scallops in Shell; Linguine with Baby Squid and Broccoli Rabe, Crispy Seared Snapper Fillet with Nage, Barolo Braised Beef Cheeks with Risotto Milanese; and a selection of his signature desserts.

It was an impressive and well-executed dinner from start to finish, but what was even more impressive was that the chef cooked everything from scratch right before our eyes! The chopping of vegetables, filleting of fish, cooking of the risotto, pan-frying, roasting and steaming was all done masterfully by himself alone with his two assistants nowhere in sight.

Fujimoto-San confided that his chef, Shirai-San, was invited to participate in "Iron Chef," but declined because Primo Bacio was just newly opened then. Too bad, I thought, with chef Shirai's rock-star looks, talent and passion for things Italian, he would have given Iron chef Italian Masahiko Kobe a run for his money!

Plan on spending at least 10,000 yen (P5,000) without wine per person. Still a bargain considering what was served for dinner!



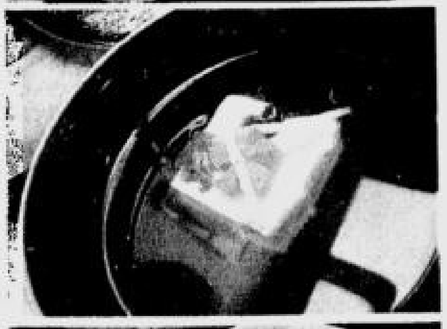
CHEF Yoshimi Shirai ready for battle!

Chef J's Tokyo dining guide

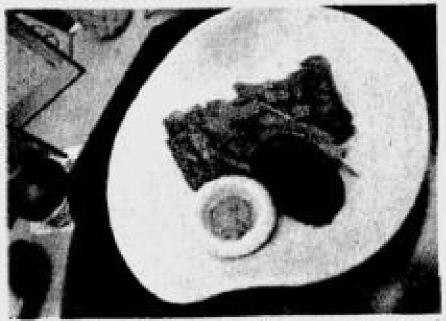
Here's a short list of restaurants I visited during a recent trip to Tokyo. I recommend them to you as I will surely visit them again on my next trip. Irashaimase!

Nada Man

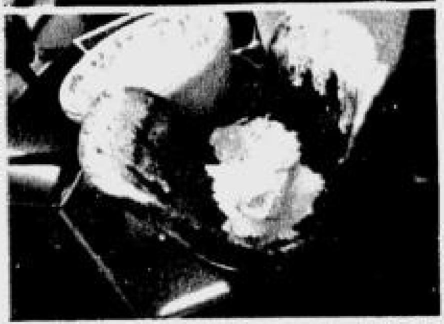
JAPANESE food disguised as art



CLEAR soup with silky tofu and your own vegetable carving



NADA Man Kobe Beef Steak, no utensils required



GRATED Daikon, Salmon Roe and Grilled Fish appetizer

SHABU-SHABU, before and after cooking

Imperial Hotel Branch (with 19 branches in Japan and Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Beijing and New York)
1-1-1 Uchisaiwai-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, Japan 100-0011
Call 03-3503-7982

This is Japanese fine dining for expats and tourists. All your familiar favorites: shabu-shabu, Kobe beef steak, tempura and the like, making use of the most perfect ingredients, are here.

I'm not saying these are the best versions of the most popular Japanese dishes, but the place is probably the most accessible restaurant for non-Japanese speakers. The menus are in English and the staff is proficient, and all the food beautiful.

Set menu for shabu-shabu using ridiculously marbled Kobe beef is about 10,000 yen (P5,000), which includes a sampling of cold appetizers, clear soup, perfect looking fruit or ice cream.

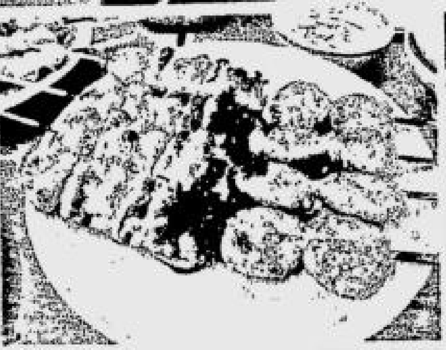
The Kobe beef steak set menu is about 12,000 yen (P6,000), but is so rich and tender that knife and fork are unnecessary.

Want to have a near-perfect Japanese dinner with no pain in ordering? This is it. The pain sets in when the check arrives. But then again, you can only experience food this perfect at Nada Man.

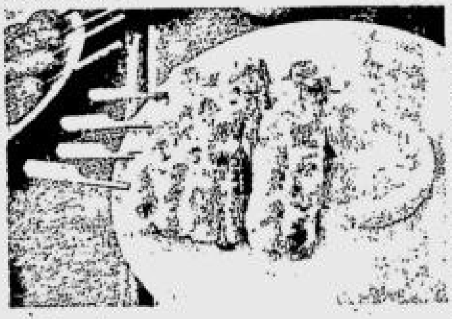
PERFECT fruit, looks almost like plastic

Torigin Yakitori and Kamameshi

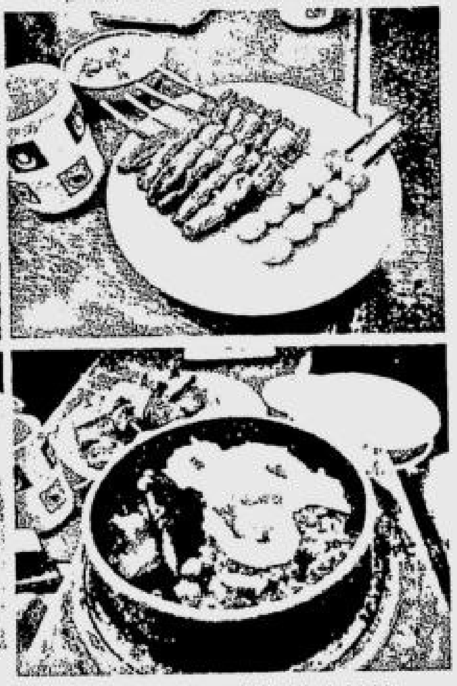
TORIGIN chef grilling away thousands of yakis a day!



NEGIMA-YAKI (chicken with leeks), and my fave, Tsukune-yaki (grilled chicken meatballs)



BACON-ASPARA Yaki (bacon-wrapped asparagus)



FROM TOP: *Shishito-yaki* (grilled shishito green peppers) and *ginnan-yaki* (grilled ginko nuts); Gomuko-Kamameshi (with chicken, bamboo shoot, shiitake mushroom and shrimp toppings)

Ginza Area
5-7,5-chome,Ginza,Chuo-ku,Tokyo
Call 03-3571-3333.
Visit www.torigin-ginza.co.jp/eng.html

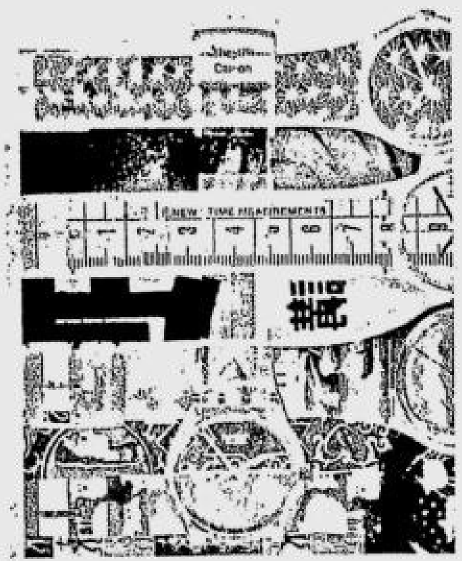
No exaggeration, this is the best yakitori (grilled skewered chicken) and kamameshi (kettle-cooked rice) on the planet! If memory serves me right, the first time I ate in Torigin was in 1976 with my folks and siblings. We were brought there by Tito Charlie Valdes, who was then Philippine ambassador to Japan. They have since expanded and have another outlet near the original Torigin.

I visit Torigin every time I'm in Tokyo, and you just can't eat there once. The must-haves include: Negima-yaki (chicken with leeks), Ginnan-yaki (grilled ginko nuts), Tebasaki-yaki (grilled chicken wings), Shishito-yaki (grilled "shishito" green peppers), and my super fave: Tsukune-yaki (chicken meatballs).

You have a choice whether you want the yakitori seasoned with just salt (*shio*) or with a teriyaki-like sauce. Go for the sauce! Superb kamameshi is also to be enjoyed at Torigin. I like the one with everything on it: Gomuko-Kamameshi (with chicken, bamboo shoots, shiitake mushrooms and shrimp toppings).

Tip: Say the words "green river" when you order and they'll give you a free beer or soft drink! Well, that's what their website says! Good value, too, for Tokyo standards: a meal for two will run you about 3,000 yen (P1,500) with a drink. You will not be disappointed!

POPSIE Gamboa can't decide what to have first!



ON MOTHER'S Day, Swatch timepieces will be raffled off in Tin Hau and Paseo Uno

LUSTROUS Bliss, a Swatch Skin watch with 174 diamonds, is the grand prize at Mandarin Oriental's Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations.

MOTHER'S Day hampers for gift-giving, available at Mandarin Deli May 2-8

Mother's Day can be a time of 'Bliss'

MANDARIN Oriental Manila, in collaboration with Swatch, pays homage to moms and dads on Mother's and Father's Day on May 8 and June 19, respectively.

The hotel offers exquisite meals, special room packages and prize watches in celebration of the two events.

Diners can win for mom the grand prize of "Lustrous Bliss," the Swatch Skin watch with 174 diamonds, that will be raffled off end of May if they dine at Paseo Uno and Tin Hau on Mother's Day.

The same watch will be raffled off end of June and can be won for dad by diners at The Tivoli on Father's Day.

Diners on Mother's Day and Father's Day will already have a chance to bring home Swatch timepieces. Paseo Uno and Tin Hau will raffle off some Swatch timepieces on May 8, Mother's Day. Another set of Swatch timepieces will be raffled off on Father's Day, June 19, Paseo Uno, Tin Hau and The Tivoli.

Those who will avail of weekend room packages for local residents in May and June will also get a chance to win Swatch watches, including the "Lustrous Bliss" grand prize, for mom or dad during raffles to be held May 31 and June 30.

At Paseo Uno, Mandarin's all-day chic restaurant with open kitchens and buffets featuring Asian and international cuisines, special brunch and dinner buffets are available at P1,380+ for adults and P690+ for children. The selection includes: Thai glass noodle salad with roast Chinese duck; Seabass with garlic and herbs and slipper lobster on the grill station; Prime rib on the carving station; Pan-fried Nile perch fillet with green asparagus; Veal tenderloin on mushroom ragout; Steamed red snapper fillet with crabmeat sauce; Assorted dimsums, tempura, sushi, and sashimi; chocolate tiramisu; and crepes among many others.

A special deluxe buffet for lunch and dinner at the hotel's authentic Chinese restaurant Tin Hau, is available at P1,288+ for adults, and P688+ for children. The buffet includes roasted crispy duck, fish lip soup with sliced duck meat, steamed red grouper with leeks and ginger, crispy fried pigeon, fried lobster slipper with chili sauce, assorted dim sums; and deep-fried sesame balls with lotus cream.

Special hampers suitable as gifts and priced from P1,000+ to P2,800+, are available at the Mandarin Deli May 2-8.

Weekend room packages start at P4,200+, overnight stay for two persons in a superior room with Paseo Uno breakfast. Guests also get one complimentary 45-minute in-room Spa Reliever Massage designed by The Oriental Spa and a 20 percent discount on all other spa massage treatments for a minimum weekend stay of two nights.

An overnight weekend stay in a Club Room starts at P6,200+, inclusive of in-room coffee and tea-making facilities, in-room safe and facsimile machine, access to broadband hi-speed Internet-ready computer, complimentary pressing of one suit/dress per day, choice of newspapers, full-range bathroom amenities, and in-room check-in.

Club Lounge benefits include use of private lounge with designated smoking and non-smoking areas, private check-in and check-out, complimentary executive breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails and canapés, all-day selection of refreshments, exclusive use of Club meeting room (two hours per day), concierge services and complimentary wireless Internet access.

Special Mother's and Father's Day Weekend Room Packages are available May 1-31 and June 1-30, respectively, exclusively to Philippine residents, including expatriates with valid alien certificate of registration (ACR).

Call 7508888 locals 2400 and 2401 (food and beverage) and local 2304 (room reservations).

SWATCH Maxi for those who avail of the Mother's Day package on any weekend in May

Tears?

"Here I am." Tessa boldly lives her life according to what she believes in. For her, you only live once, so lead a genuine life, and of course, live out loud! With her unique charm and distinctive style, she expresses her truest self in her actions and appearance. Seeing her live life to the fullest, other people can't help but also indulge in the zest of just being.

With a passion for life, Tessa has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

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For additional information, please call (632) 893 5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Interior Designer/Philanthropist

Photography: Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh

TOWER CANDY

EMILIO Ejercito, Paula Betita and Andrea Cruz model clothes by Kid's Depot.

EMILIO Ejercito in a Big Joy ensemble

PAULA Betita in the closet

Kiddie festival at the market

WITH "Colors Of Summer: A Children's Festival," which starts today, Market! Market! puts the emphasis on all-out, no-holds-barred fun for kids.

Children's stores on the third level will be impossible to miss with its colorful balloons, and various booths and activities that will appeal especially to young ones.

Workshops on bead-making and other fun skills are open to everyone. Shoppers who present receipts of at least P200 from Market! Market! children stores can also have their kids go wild by having their faces painted.

The little fashionistas in the audience can look forward to a fashion show at 4 p.m., with models ranging from 4-12 years old, some of whom are already celebrities in their own right.

The festival is made possible with the help of Kaboosh, Kid's Depot, Blued for Kids, Big Joy Kids, Anne Juleth, Enfant, Blush Hour, Kids of Bayo, Gingersnaps, Big and Small Co., Spin, Orange Juice, OshKosh, The Gift Factory and Shoes n' Such.

Market! Market! is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and on Fridays to Sundays from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal, open space parking and the new parking building are also available for shoppers' convenience. Market! Market! is another retail innovation of Ayala Land Inc.

LITTLE Ladies Paula Betita and Andrea Cruz in Big Joy fashion

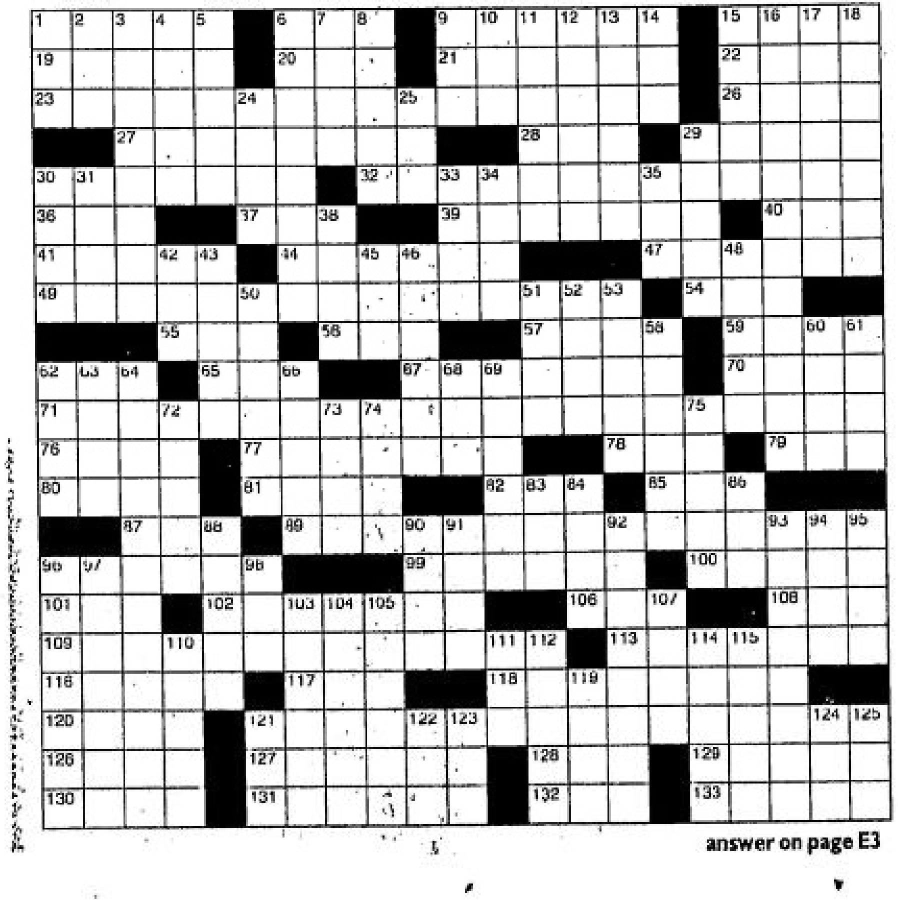
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ENCOUNTER

ACROSS
1 Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi, e.g.
6 Rd. crossers
9 Filled with joy
15 Q-tip, e.g.
19 "Remember the —!"
20 Enkindled
21 Desert delusion
22 Trickle out
23 Start of a riddle
26 Sigma Phi Epsilon, e.g.
27 Nicholas of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
28 — polloi (the masses)
29 Metric prefix for "thousand"
30 Botches the job
32 Riddle, part 2
36 Annex
37 — Guevara
39 Reached the summit
40 Actress — Dawn Chong
41 Jungle vine
44 Display clearly
47 Pupils' playtime
49 Riddle, part 3
54 Small pouch
55 Dictator Amin
56 Remiss
57 Et — (and others)
59 Crooner Perry
62 Globe
65 "What was — do?"
67 Make suffer
70 Long haul
71 Riddle, part 4
76 "— Smile Be Your Umbrella"
77 Lymphoid throat mass
78 — -Cat
79 Plane domain
80 Comedian Mort
81 — Strauss jeans
82 It's between Can. and Mex.
85 Dove's noise
87 Chicago trains
89 End of the riddle
96 Gretel's brother
99 Take for granted
100 Shorthand pro
101 — Dhabi (sheikdom)
102 Vegas' — Palace
106 Hosp. sections
108 Time Warner's partner
109 Start of the riddle's answer
113 In a toned-down way
116 Heavy horns
117 Half a Teletubby?
118 Contacting via the Net
120 List unit
121 End of the riddle's answer
126 Raison d'—
127 PC whiz, e.g.
128 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
129 Sentry
130 Singer Diana
131 Let go of
132 Giant bird of myth
133 Haunting

DOWN
1 — alai
2 Polar worker
3 Routine
4 Comment upon folding
5 Goes bad
6 Did detective work
7 Bleacher feature
8 Premium cable channel
9 Ostrichlike bird
10 Landscape sculptor Maya
11 Bigot Bunker
12 Chevy SUVs
13 Vain person
14 C-G linkup
15 Bulgaria's capital
16 Guinness' concerns
17 Spring bloomers
18 Happens to
24 Bic Clic — (pen brand)
25 Halloween cry
29 Old Persians
30 Island east of Java
31 Major Norse god
33 Nero's 1,300
34 One of TV's Mavericks
35 That lass
38 Pernicious
42 "There's — in 'team'"
43 A/V part
45 Writer Levin
46 Beside
48 Desert blooms
50 Ceremony
51 "— Camera" (1955 film)
52 Designer Cassini
53 Boys, in Barcelona
58 This second
60 Humble
61 All right
62 Forest hooters
63 9-Down relative
64 According to standard procedure
66 Ancient
68 Asian sash
69 Names again
72 Partitions
73 "Whip It" band
74 Monogram pt.
75 Some are ajar
83 Without a — (dirt-poor)
84 "Don't look —!"
86 Mel of baseball
88 Splinter groups
90 Sailors
91 Greek mountain
92 Living as a recluse
93 Hat, e.g.
94 Chemical compound
95 "Holy —!"
96 More hurried
97 On the verge of it
98 — -di-dah
103 Actress Brennan
104 Grab
105 Dame Christie
107 "Enterprise" navigator
110 Chair designer Charles
111 Family mem.
112 Arabic ruler
114 Bit of color
115 Provide
119 Frizzy hairdo
121 Heat meas.
122 Essen article
123 Sunburned
124 Mr. Onassis
125 34th Pres.



answer on page E3

'Small' school scores big with kids and parents

FOR THE PAST 15 years, a small preschool has been steadily making its mark among discerning parents within the vicinity of BF Homes Parañaque.

Started by a group of eight dedicated teachers, Prep Camp, A School for Early Learners, has sought to establish a benchmark for preschool education by following two strict standards: having teacher-owners run the school and maintaining a low teacher-to-student ratio for quality education and better focus.

The teacher-owners, led by director Ging Ortiz, realize that the fast turnover of teachers is a major problem in most schools. Not only does this affect the level of teaching standards, it also puts pressure on children who have to get acquainted with new teachers every time.

The school limits the student population to 180-200, comprising toddler, pre-nursery, nursery, kinder and prep classes. The small population ensures that the school's high standards are always maintained.

"Some children cannot handle the 'big school environment,' and that is what Prep Camp provides—an alternative," says Ortiz. "We don't exactly compete with the big schools. In fact, some of them refer students to us. Most of our graduates also end in these schools once they graduate from Prep Camp."

Prep Camp is one of the smallest among the high-end schools and the biggest among the small schools. It is also accredited by the Department of Education.

One parent who recognizes the school's efforts is young mother Maimai Climaco Sy-Quia, whose two older children went to Prep Camp and whose youngest child is currently enrolled.

"My children Monica and Paolo are doing very well academically and socially at their 'big' school, and I have Prep Camp to thank," says Sy-Quia. "Prep Camp has significantly helped transform my children from utterly shy toddlers to unmistakably confident kids."

"I know times are hard, and parents will seek low tuition fees when scouting for a preschool, partly because of the notion that it is merely 'play' school. I hope they find the correct balance and place higher priority on the quality of the school because preschool is basically the foundation of their children's future," adds Sy-Quia.

Studies show that the preschool age is critical because this is when the architecture of a person's brain is formed. Once the brain architecture is in place, a person's level of intelligence or his mental capacity, including his personality, is practically fixed.

A young child's experiences in the world also play a vital role, so it is best for the child to be in a nurturing environment. A child also needs to be offered experiences which meet his intellectual and emotional needs, as well as focus on his different capabilities.

The atmosphere at Prep Camp is home-like because it is a small school, and the children are familiar with everyone around them. Each child is comforted by the fact that the director, the secretary, the teachers and the teacher-aides not only know his name, but are there for him, be it to wait with him after school hours when he is fetched late, or simply to give him a hug when he needs one.

Children have fun while learning because sensorial techniques or hands-on activities are employed along with lectures in presenting concepts. They paint with their hands and feet to learn about colors. They visit a bread factory to reinforce lessons on community helpers, healthy food and the different senses. A trip to a museum lets them walk through large-scale models of the different body parts and makes real for them countless other things.

Allowing the children to have fun while learning gives them a deeper understanding and mastery of what is taught to them.

Prep Camp's curriculum focuses on the children's total development—academic, social, artistic, musical and muscular. Both IQ (intelligence quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient) are enhanced to help the children become well-rounded individuals.

This is done in every aspect of their school life: classroom lessons, indoor and outdoor play, snack time, homework, field trips, school programs, etc. An annual Family Fun Day of relays, games and raffles is held to foster teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship among the children, as well as to strengthen family relations.

The children are brought to watch children's musicals like "Beauty and the Beast" and "Snow White" to stir in them a love for theater and the arts.

The Christmas Outreach Day also teaches them to share with their lesser-privileged brothers and sisters. The culminating presentation that follows every graduation ceremony showcases the children's talents in dancing and showmanship.

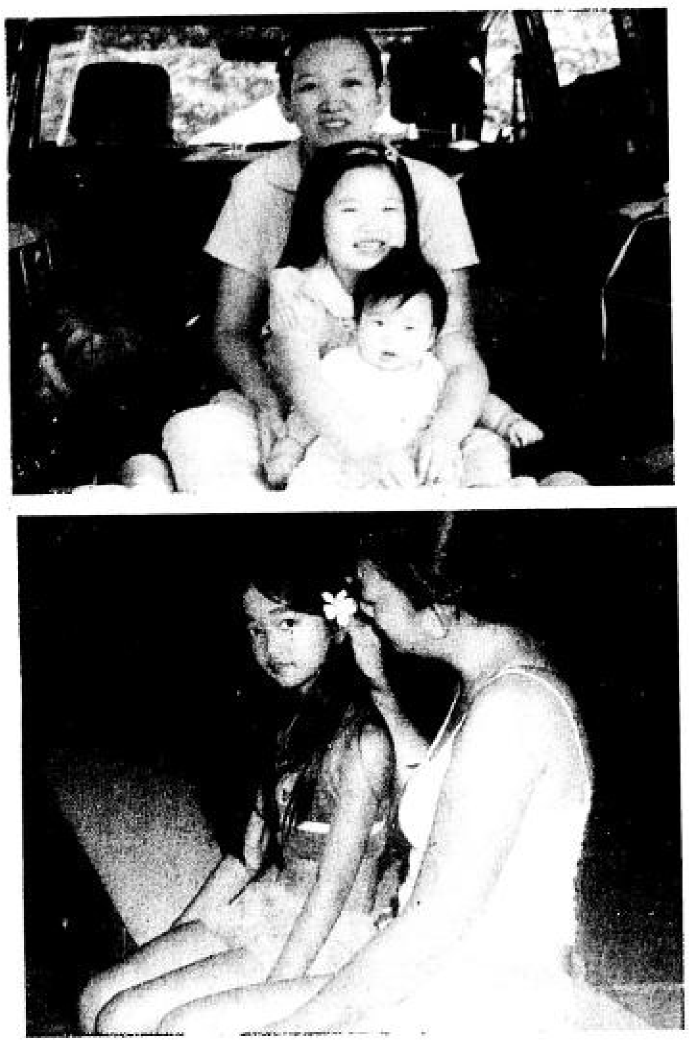
Mall treats for mom

ROBINSONS Malls pay tribute to moms in a special photo exhibit from May 1-8 at the Activity Areas of Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Cainta, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Angeles and Robinsons Townmall Los Baños.

The photos on display are the winners and selected entries from the recently concluded "Summer Fun with Mom Poto Contest."

On May 8, Mothers' Day, treat mom to a day off from the household chores and bring her to Robinsons Malls so she can avail herself of free services like haircut, manicure, pedicure, facial treatment and consultation or eye and dental checkups. You can even cap this special day with a family picture-taking. Simply register at the Activity Area of participating malls.

Call 6836100 locals 780/782 or 6836137.



SOME of the winning entries of Robinsons Malls' "Summer Fun with Mom" photo contest

All things European at the mall

IN LINE with the May 9 anniversary of European Union Day, Shangri-La Plaza kicks off the celebration of European Union Month this May with various events aimed at forging stronger cultural exchange between EU member states and the Philippines.

The British Council Philippines, which is laying the groundwork for cultural activities marking UK's assumption of the European Union presidency this year, is at the forefront of the monthlong activities at The Shang.

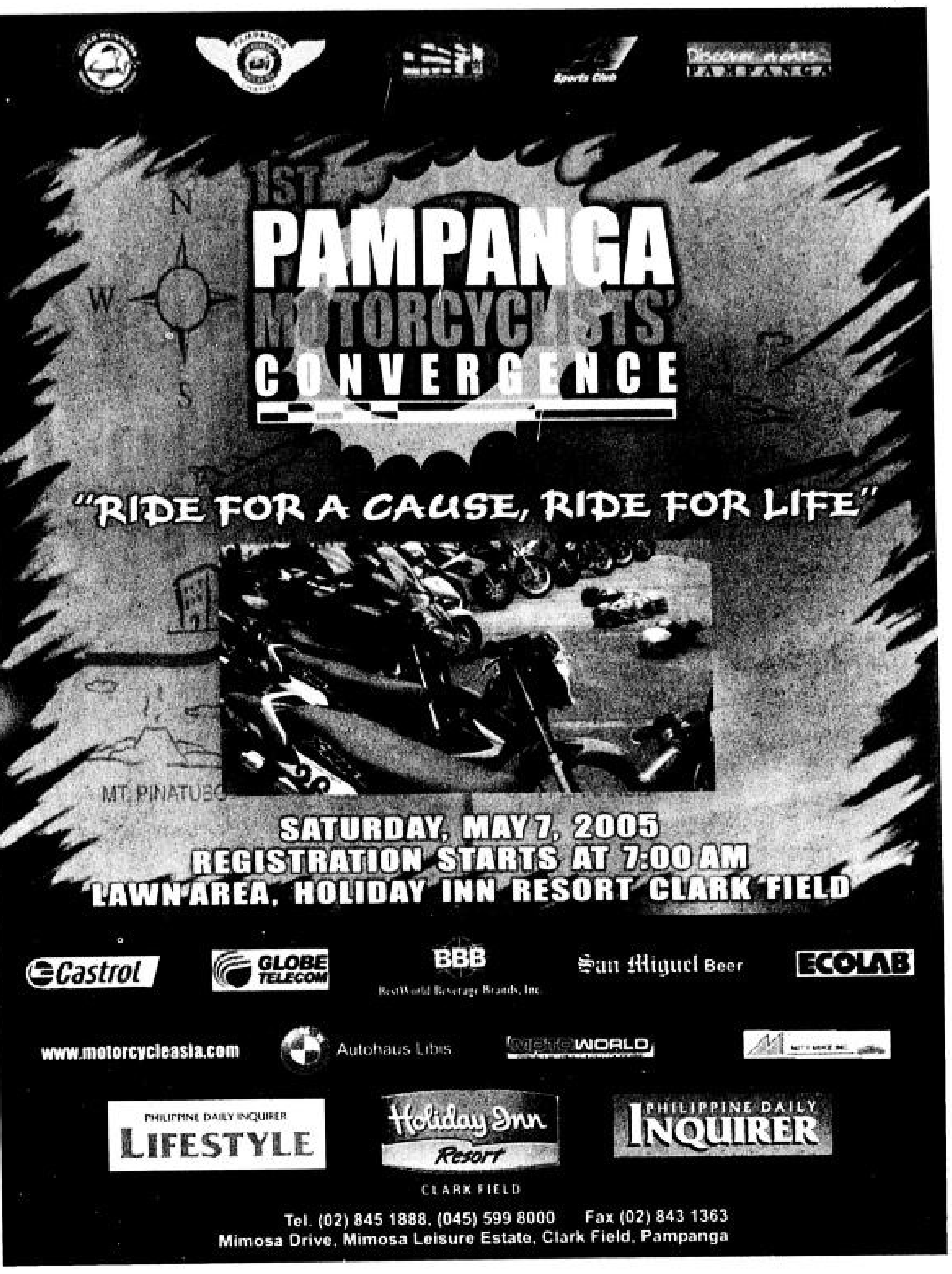
The EU Month celebration opens with a football shirt and poster memorabilia exhibit at the Shaw side wing, Level 4, on May 2. Titled "It's Only the Colour of the Shirt That Counts," the exhibit will highlight European teams and outstanding national players who have made their mark on the history of the game. The exhibit will run until May 15.

European classical music livens up the Grand Atrium when "On A High Note" comes to play on May 6 at 7 p.m. The concert, produced with the support of Creative Futures, will feature a stellar cast of local artists: tenor Nolyn Cabahug, lyric soprano Liza Cabahug, avant-garde violinist Jay Cayuca, alternative music icon Cynthia Alexander, R&B specialist Judith Banal, rocker Butch Montejo, and guitarist Johnny Alegre. Well-loved hits from Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Sweden, Austria, and the UK will be brought to life under the musical direction of Bobby Gomez.

On Mother's Day, May 8, the British Council Philippines, in cooperation with No Curfew and WG&A, presents "Mummy Dearest," a special joint performance concert of the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB) and the Peace Philharmonic Philippines (PPP). Scott Stroman, jazz department head at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, will conduct.

The show caps the British Council's four-year music education series with Guildhall. PYSB gathers brass, wind, and percussion musicians from the lakeshore towns of Rizal, Laguna and Cavite, while the PPP string players have worked with world-renowned artists like cellist Matthew Barley and tenor Andrea Bocelli. The show, to be held at the Grand Atrium, starts at 3 p.m.

Flamenco fever sweeps the Grand Atrium on May 13 with "Baile!," a pulsating and highly colorful revue of dances from various regions of Spain to be performed by students of master choreographer Guillermo Gomez Rivera (Grupo Flamenco de Señor Gomez). Performance starts at 7 p.m. Call 6337851 or visit www.shangrila-plaza.com



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"RIDE FOR A CAUSE, RIDE FOR LIFE"

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2005
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:00 AM
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Castrol GLOBE TELECOM BBB BestWorld Beverage Brands, Inc. San Miguel Beer ECOLAB
www.motorcycleasia.com Autohaus Libis WORLD
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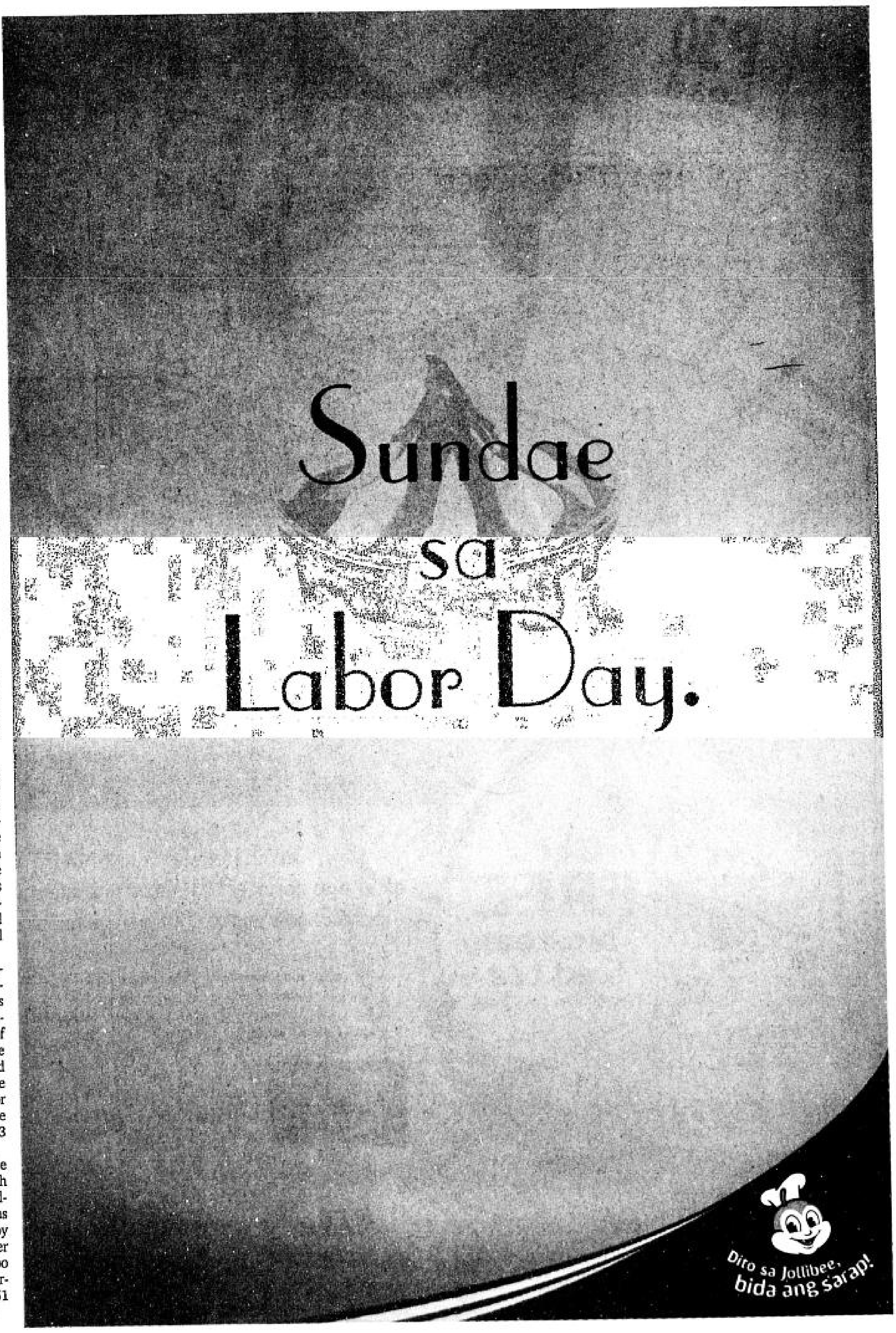
Tel. (02) 845 1888, (045) 599 8000 Fax (02) 843 1363
Mimosa Drive, Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga



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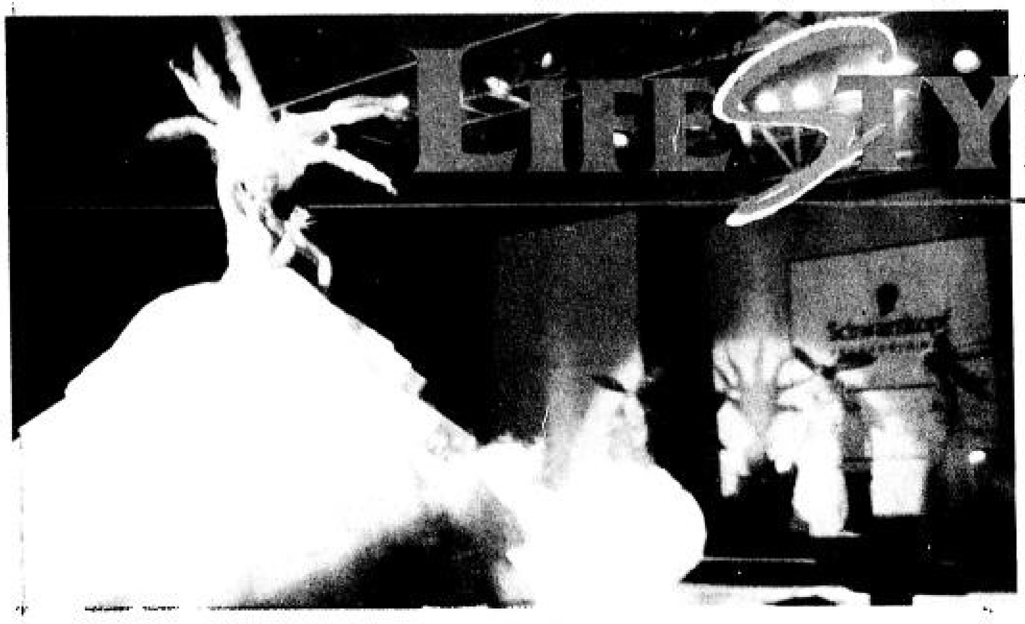

MAGNIFICENT hair creations by Emphasis' Danny Katalbas

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT# 0032, SERIES OF 2005

The Manila FAME International trade exhibit wows the world. I raid it for accessories

DESIGNER genius Gerry Contreras, Elit and Freddie Pacho, and Jiro Estaniel

Filipino design fame spreads globally

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

FILIPINO creativity and craftsmanship have been on overdrive these recent weeks.

The annual Manila FAME International trade exhibit, which showcases the country's expansive product lines, was a tremendous success with three halls leading to a 31-percent higher foreign and local buyers' market compared to last year. China and India may have lower labor costs, but the Philippines still reigns in the creativity department, as our original and unique designs give us a much-needed advantage in the global market. I was truly proud to be Pinoy during my fascinating visit to the exhibit!

With exhibits ranging from traditional to contemporary furniture, Christmas and holiday décor, fashion accessories, and costume and fine jewelry, the fair had energy and imagination. Each hall or venue displayed the different products of the exhibitors using organic and natural materials fused into unbelievable designs.

At the Marketplace, talented designer Tony Gonzales arranged an eye-popping woven installation encasing the different products available in that hall. I couldn't help but lounge in a gigantic clove-shaped sofa made of a natural tight weave and just think of the powdered sands of Boracay.

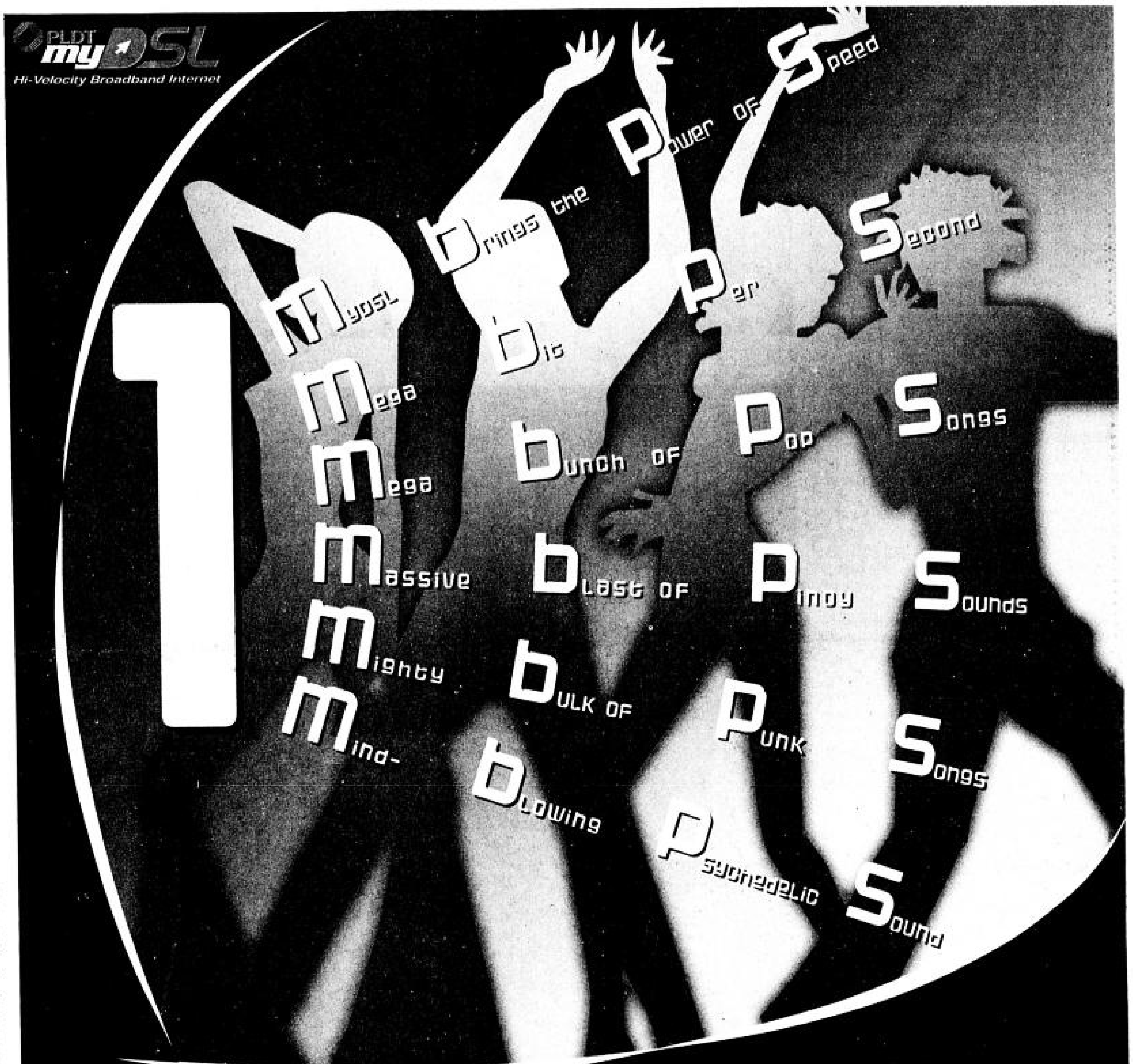
The Christmas Village had a joyful atmosphere, with a glittery glow coming from the wired Christmas trees and colorful décor. It is difficult to feel the holiday spirit during this hot, hot, hot season, but the hall had the Christmas spirit to it. It also had stationery and desk accessories, so it had quite a bit to display and was worth the tour. Maybe I will concentrate on this section during the next

FILIPINO/ D2

FASHION world friends Robby Carmona, Rajo Laurel and Lulu Tan Gan

CHINA-BOUND Patrice Ramos-Diaz is flanked by Tippi Ocampo and Liza Ilarde.

FASHION designers JC Buendia and Len Nepumoceno with model Nicolette Bell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PLDT

SCHWARZKOPF head Cora del Rosario and hairstylist Angelo Justin

TOP model couple Val de los Santos and Robby Mananquil

AMANPULO owner Andres Soriano with bubbly Doody Tuason

YOGA friends Katrina Feist and Bela Lipat

AMANPULO manager Shane McNaly and his pregnant wife Karen

SAFARI king and LWT guest this week, Binky Dizon and wife Tracie

Filipino design fame spreads globally

From page D1

fair on Oct. 18-21, so I can really get into the holiday decorating and shopping mood.

The Fashion Store was my favorite hall with the whole venue devoted to my fashion fetish: accessories. Runway mannequins at the center displayed the most amazing chic collection of fashion accessories made of exotic, natural materials. In addition, fine jewelry made its presence in the fair for the first time.

In a bold move to promote the Philippines as a player in the international jewelry industry, the Guild of Philippine Jewelers joined Manila FAME, showcasing South Sea pearls and gemstones such as opal, jasper, quartz and jade turned into exquisite pieces. Several Filipino designers in the Guild have won in international competitions, such as Jing Turralba of Mercelles. We do have skilled compatriots who can, shall we say, sparkle in this field. As always, the task to put the Philippines in the jewelry map will be an uphill climb but the efforts are sure to be rewarding.

I managed to avoid spending my baby budget as I walked around, finally arriving at the Avatar booth of Cebu partyphile and accessory designer Butch Carungay. Looking more like a chill-out party than an exhibit, Butch always has overflowing champagne and caviar available all day. Alcohol may be on my X-list, but caviar pie is always on my A-list.

MILES Ahead partners Mike Prado and Boyd Deriquito

EMPHASIS Salon team winners with their hair models

"LOOK Who's Talking" host Anton San Diego, with Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo and Fe Reyes

Amanpulo

The Philippines is really blessed with abundant natural resources, talented designers and numerous skilled craftsmen, and to top off all these, breathtaking, pristine beaches. I was reminded of this at the 11th-anniversary party of the exclusive Amanpulo Resort at the spectacular penthouse building of Gerry Contreras.

Billboard-sized photos of the resort were displayed on the building's façade as guests mingled in their summer outfits. I chatted with the resort manager's wife, Karen McNaly, and told her the last time I was in Amanpulo was almost 10 years ago when I was pregnant with my second child, Tyrone. My husband Dennis celebrated his birthday there as well, and I remember the very personal attention given to us.

Also on the family way, Karen said I should have planned a trip earlier into my pregnancy—perhaps to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary! I told her I would definitely stay there for a whole month, if I should get pregnant again in 2015!

CEBU pride Butch Carungay with his Cebuano guests

Bon voyage, Patrice

From the beaches of Amanpulo, I headed home for a farewell dinner for romantic-style designer Patrice Ramos-Diaz, who has just moved to China. Organized by the now-slimmer Rajo Laurel, my house was filled with the country's top designers, models and fashion magazine editors—all with happy wishes for Patrice. I didn't realize the fashion world is so very supportive and generous. Gone are the days of backbiting and useless negative intrigues. Each designer rallies behind one another with the ultimate goal of uplifting the fashion industry—at least for one night!

The food that night was overflowing. President GMA's designer, JC Buendia, brought his mom's killer oven-baked chicken dish while talented menswear designer Randy Ortiz had another chicken version, which was equally delicious. After several desserts were consumed, we played a "Guess-the-Designer" game with the outfits I brought down from my closet, with prizes including Lancôme giveaways courtesy of Leica Carpo and an assortment of extra items including Gyne-fresh feminine wash!

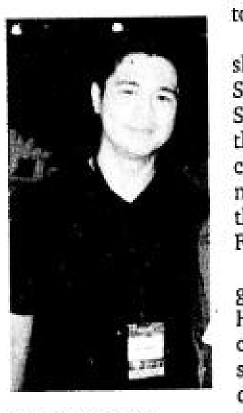
I will surely miss Patrice—always a great source I could call and borrow a gown from in a fashion emergency. Since China is not too far away, perhaps I can still arrange with her to freight over some designs.

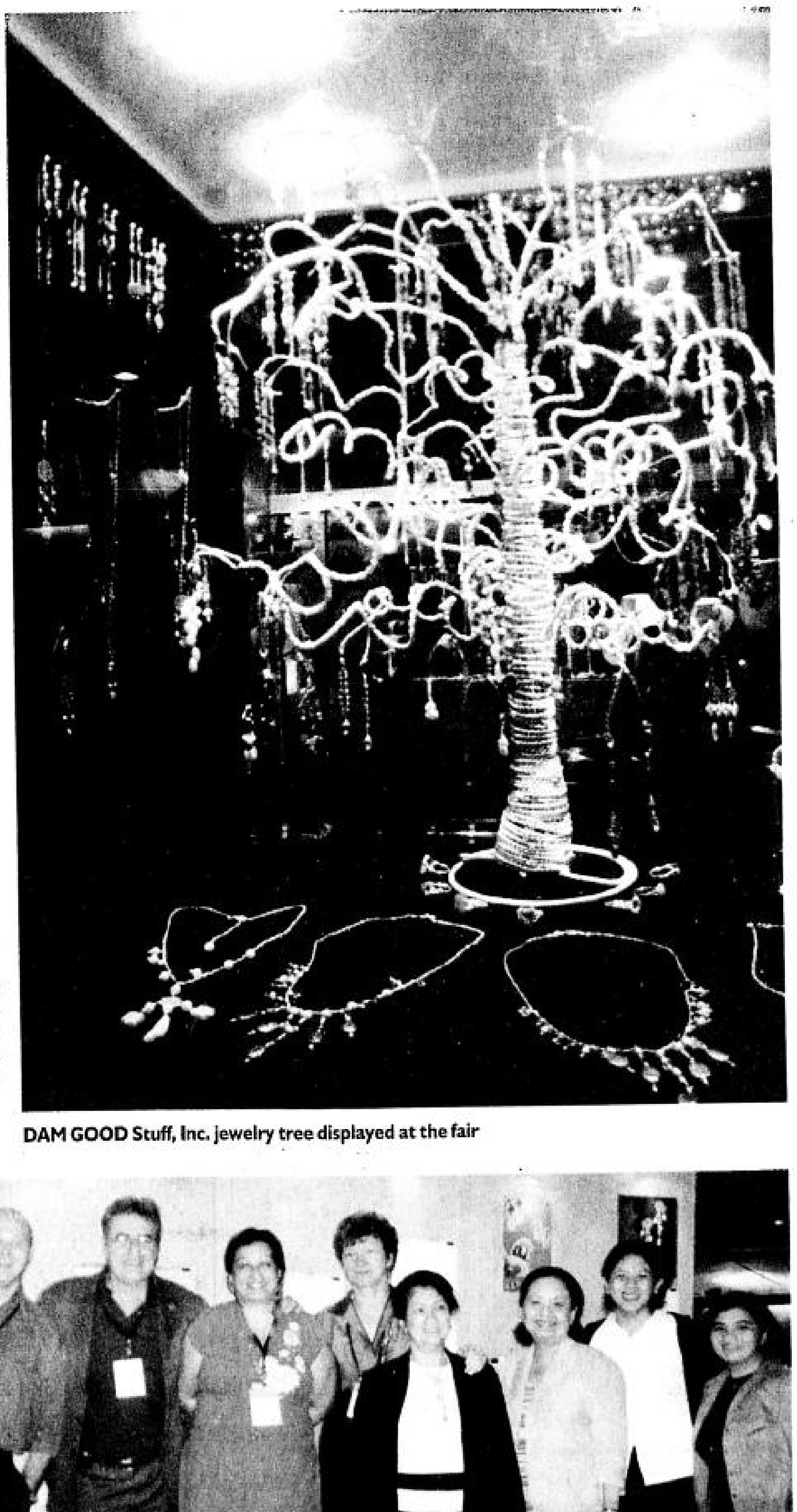
Yet another field where Filipino talent shines is in the hairstyling world. At the Schwarzkopf Hairdressing Awards (not Swarovski, which I mistakenly thought of), the most magnificent and spectacular hair creations were on display. The selected winners will compete in the regional finals with their Asian counterparts, where I am sure the Filipino entries will shine.

Emphasis Salon triumphed in three categories: Avant Garde, Team of the Year and Hairdresser of the Year. Like a proud sister, I cheered for the victory that they truly deserved. The finale was a stunning, whimsical display of the grand work of Danny Katalbas. I can hardly wait to borrow his hairpieces for my next costume.

With all the Filipino creativity and talent we have, our fellow Pinoys have so much to look forward to as we make our individual marks in this world. Yes indeed, the Filipino can! And when each of us does, collectively, our entire country moves forward, too!

E-mail seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph


FLOWER chair designer Carlo Tanseco


DAM GOOD Stuff, Inc. jewelry tree displayed at the fair

EXHIBITOR Jun Allanigue and birthday lady Annabelle Cordon

MANILA FAME talent Tony Gonzales and organizer Ron Gonzales

RESORT guests Techie and Philip Hagedorn

CREATIVE exporters Leah Gamboa and Mila Lacson

GUILD of Philippine Jewelers members in full force at Manila FAME

Telcom stores get awards for merchandising display

GLOBE Telecom's trendsetting interactive stores, The Hub and Globe Telecom Business Centers (GTBC), won a total of three awards in the recent Ayala Center Merchant Rewards Program.

The Hub in Glorietta Mall and GTBCs in Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu each received a Visual Merchandising Excellence Award (Service Category) in recognition of their efforts to deliver creative and engaging visual merchandising display the whole year round. Globe Telecom retail marketing head Patricia Forbes and senior specialist Maiette Cayabyab received the awards.

Through exciting and innovative projects, Globe Telecom has created not merely stores but modern showrooms where customers can experience Globe's latest offerings.

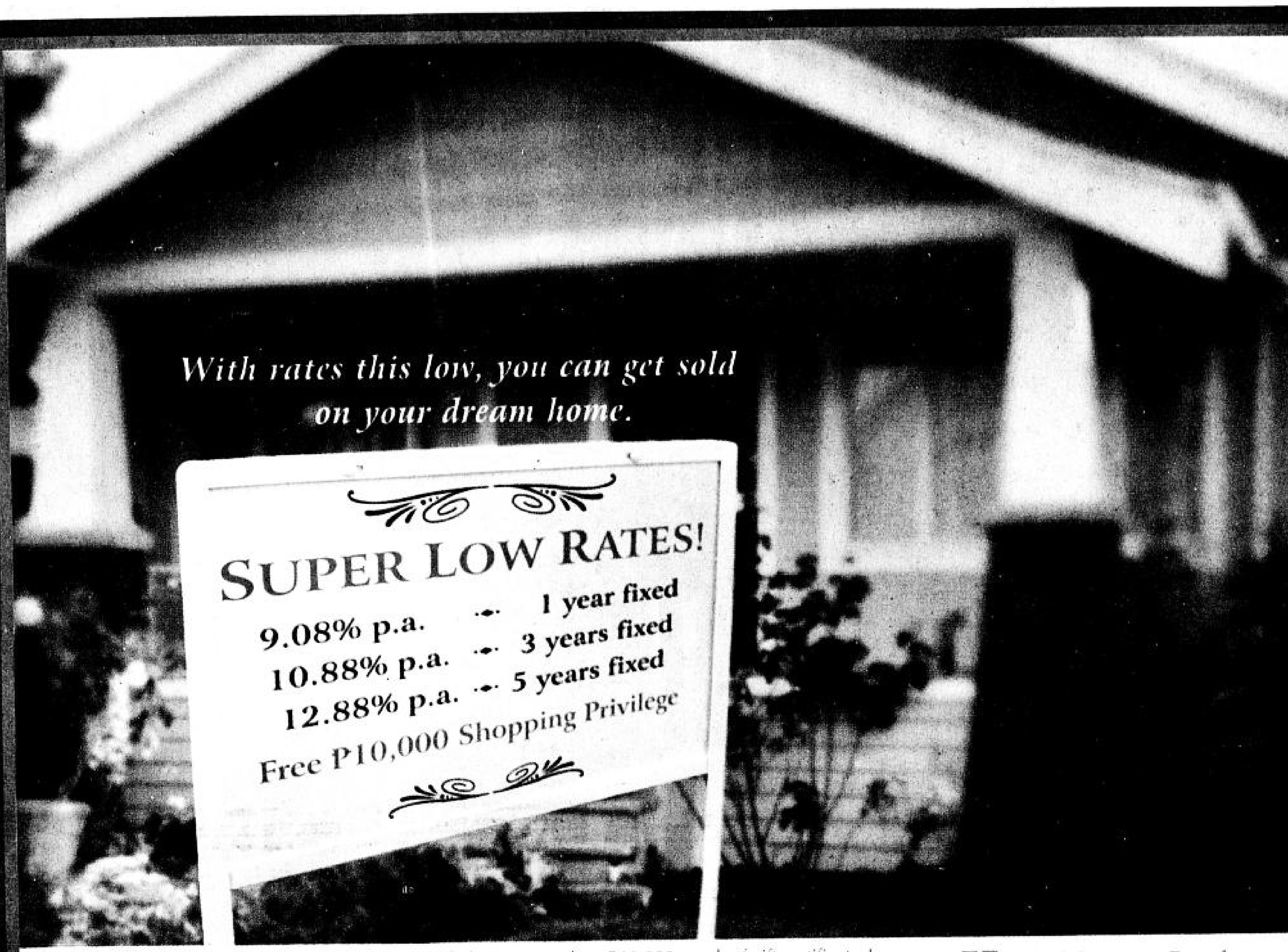
The Ayala Center Merchant Awards is now on its 7th year. It gives recognition to the most outstanding retailers through the Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards Program.

Hypermart will have weekend organic market

SHOPWISE branches in Libis, Cubao and Alabang will now have an organic market every weekend.

Prompted by the success of "Fresh off the Rack," a food and fashion sale, the temporary organic market will be a regular weekend feature at the Libis, Cubao and Alabang outlets, Friday to Sunday, until June 5. Afterwards, it will be permanently open on Saturdays and Sundays in all three branches.

The market will not only have high-quality organic items but also a gardening section that will sell organic fertilizer, seeds and gardening materials, among others. Shopwise is located at the G/F of the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa; cor. Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Streets, Makati City; on E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; and cor. General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.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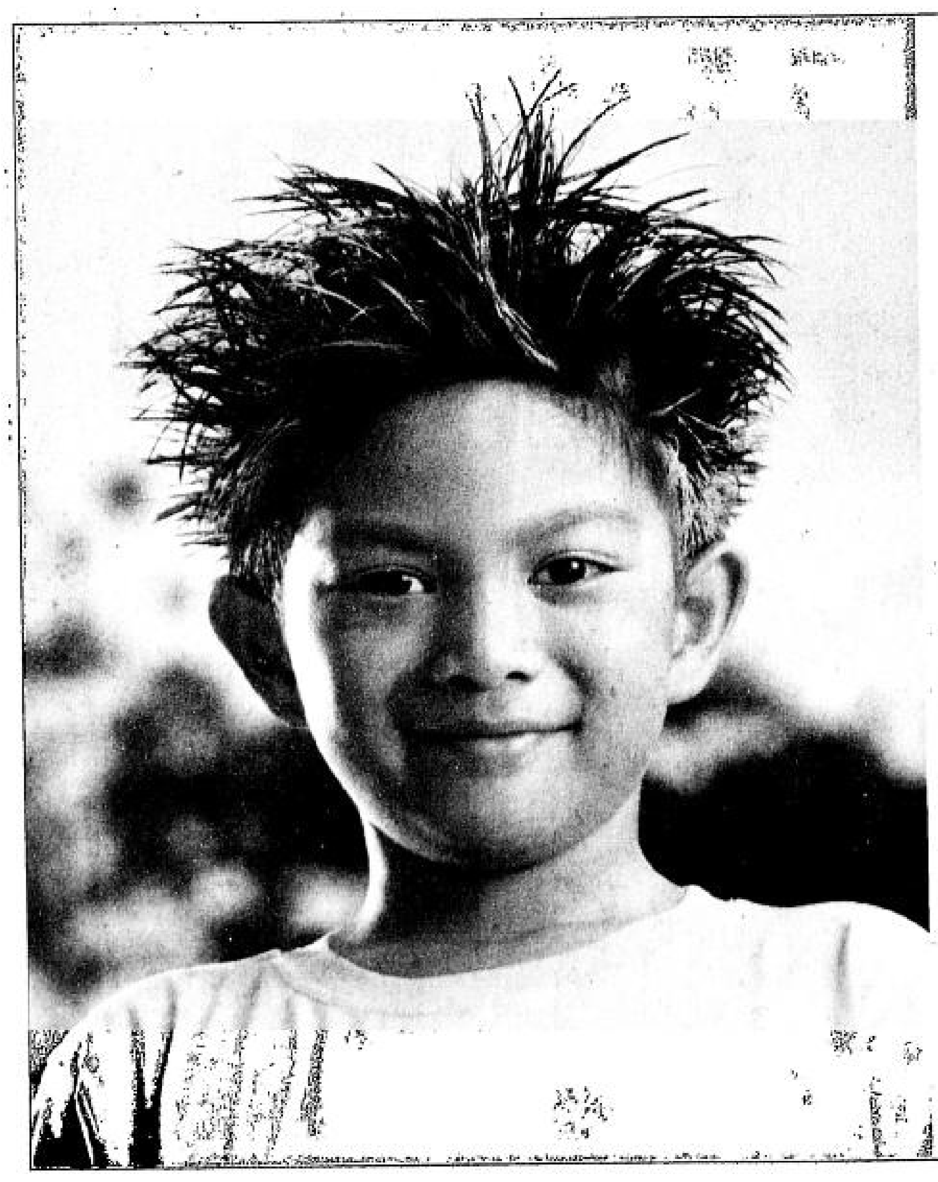

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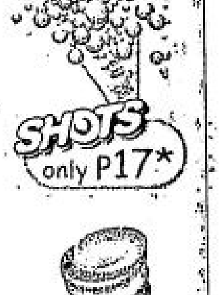

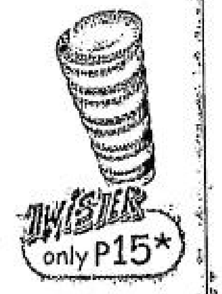

Are you cool enough?

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The day before you left for New York, Kuya and I were playing ball in the house.

It happened so fast. The pass I gave Kuya was so strong, the ball bounced off his hands and found its way to the living room mantle. Time seemed to stop as your favorite plate fell to the floor.

Tears flowed down my cheeks as you walked in the room.

I closed my eyes expecting you to shout in anger. Instead, I slowly felt the warmth of your embrace.

I've kept that plate ever since. Every time I see it and every time I call you on my Globe, I'm reminded that someday I'll feel your arms around me once more.

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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

MANIWANG-MACANDILI

Roy Maniwang, son of **Rene** and **Yoly Maniwang**, will wed **Jhay Macandili**, daughter of **Epoy** and **Benggie Macandili**, on May 8, at 3 p.m., at the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila.. Reception will follow at Baluarte de San Diego, Intramuros.

BRAGA-CUNANAN

Bence Cunanan, daughter of **Benedicto** and **Celedonia Cunanan**, will wed **Manolo Moises Braga**, son of **Regino** and **Emilie Braga**, on May 5, 10 a.m., at the Shrine of Jesus, The way, The Truth and The Life, Central Business Park, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. The wedding will be officiated by Rev. Fr. **Agerico "Jerry" Muñoz Orbos**, SVD.

MABABAYA-PINEDA

Cristina Pineda, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Beth Pineda**, will marry **Amin Omar Mababaya**, son of **Datu Maundan** and **Hadja Aliyah Mababaya**, on May 6, 6 p.m., at Casa Manila Patio, Intramuros, Manila.

A show for every bride

IN LINE Event Production, Blessed Concepts Production and Manila Hotel brings "Wedding and Celebrations: The Bride's Walk."

To be held June 11 and 12 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel, the bridal exhibit brings together the best wedding coordinators, florists, photographers, souvenir gift item suppliers and cake designers.

The best fashion designers in the country will present their wedding gown creations. Couples can also check out churches where the ceremonies may be held.

Call 2558229, 2517104 or 0918-563877.

Elite Club card now available

THE ELITE Club Card is Richmonde Hotel's loyalty membership program for 2005. The Elite Club offers more discounts, privileges and freebies for its members.

For an annual membership fee of P4,800, Elite Club members can avail of benefits like room privileges that include one voucher for a special room rate of P1,500 for an overnight stay in a superior room with buffet breakfast for two, vouchers for a complimentary night with breakfast for every two consecutive-night stay in a Junior Suite at the current local resident's rate, plus special upgrade rates and preferred room rates.

Gourmands will delight in unlimited dining discounts at the Grill, complimentary birthday cake or wine, 20-percent discount on food and beverage at The Exchange Bar (except on Happy Hour promotions) and one Banquet discount voucher. Fitness enthusiasts will also take pleasure in free trial vouchers at Health Club, pool passes and discounts on Health Club memberships.

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See flyers and promo boards for details
No membership required
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0894 Series of 2005

Boac patroness in QC

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THOSE who cannot go to Boac, Marinduque, for the feast of Our Lady of Biglang Awa can visit the Holy Family Parish cor. Madre Selva and Lila Streets, Roxas District, Quezon City.

Fr. Omer Prieto, parish priest who is from Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, has arranged Novena Masses at 6:30 p.m., May 1-9. Fiesta Mass will be at 6:30 p.m., May 10, followed by a procession.

A replica of Our Lady's image was donated to the church by Our Lady of Biglang Awa Foundation, headed by president Albine Hidalgo Padua. The foundation, composed mainly of Metro Manila residents, has been holding Novena Masses first week of November for the past 14 years.

FR. Charlie Argente, Rector of the Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas

Those who have problems with their eyesight will be particularly happy to know that an image of Our Lady of Biglang Awa is now in Metro Manila. It is said Juanita Manubay's sight was restored in 1897 after the 36-year-old woman prayed day and night to Our Lady.

I myself asked for Our Lady's intercession when I suffered loss of sight in my left eye because of hemorrhage behind my retina. Now my sight is clearer, and I can read better. I returned to Boac in 2003 to say thanks.

Those who want prayers to Our Lady of Biglang Awa can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Boac fiesta

Zeny Daquioag succeeds Patria Jacinto as *hermana mayor* this year. Leading the fiesta is newly installed Bishop Reynaldo Gonda Evangelista. The new bishop, who turns 45 on May 8, is a Marian devotee.

Marinduqueños going home for the fiesta by boat are "met" by a life-size image of the Virgin courtesy of Gov. Carmencita Reyes. The image seems to be floating in the water.

Answered prayers

Charismatic healer Fr. Nelson Osorio, OSJ, holds a small statue of St. Joseph before a patient when he conducts healing after Mass. He has healed several people like Nilo Macatangay, who had a kidney problem; Fatima Manuano Cueto, who could not get pregnant; Efren Perez, who had a stroke in 2004 and was unable to walk for two months; Filemon Remo, who had an obstruction in a blood vessel; and Cecilia Remo who had a cyst in her left lung.

Pilgrimage

Fr. Charlie Argente, parish priest and rector of the Shrine of St. Joseph, invites pilgrims to the shrine in San Jose, Batangas. Lawyer Asuncion Kalalo is organizing a trip on June 5, first Sunday, in time for the 10 a.m. Mass. Text 0917-7909110. A garden depicting the Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph is being set up in front of the church.

Four deacons will be ordained in the shrine today, feast of St. Joseph the Worker, by Bishop Ramon Arguelles. They are Rev. Jason Endaya, OSJ; Rev. Adonis Mamuyac, OSJ; Rev. Roland Indicio, OSJ; and Rev. Randy de la Rosa, OSJ.

In Las Piñas, the feast of "Tata Husep" is being marked today in the centuries-old church. Activities are lined up for the whole day.

Lady of Piat

Eight priests and members of the Davao Archdiocesan Marian Evangelization (DAME) fetched the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat from Cagayan and brought it to Davao yesterday where it was welcomed at the San Pedro Cathedral by Archbishop Fernando Capalla.

This will be the fifth Marian pilgrimage to Davao. The late Pope John Paul II wrote to Archbishop Capalla asking him to propagate the devotion to the Blessed Virgin in response to the Pontiff's famous exhortation, "Totus Tuus" (I am all yours, O Mary).

The images brought to Davao earlier were Lipa's Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace (2001); France's Our Lady of the Visitation (2002); Pangasinan's Our Lady of Manaoag (2003); and Belgium's Virgin of the Poor (2004).

Coordinating the visit is Ianne Monfort. *Hermana mayor* is Corazon Abarquez.

The Virgin, who will visit 32 parishes in Davao, was fetched by Fr. Jhun Gimeno, parochial vicar, San Pedro Cathedral; Fr. Ricky Peñalaca, chaplain of the Holy Grace Chapel of Davao College; Fr. Danny Datallo, parochial vicar of Sto. Rosario Parish, Toril; Fr. Rogelio Rodriguez, St. James the Apostle Parish in Bunawan; Fr. Nestor Dalumpines, St. Francis Xavier Parish in Tibungco; Fr. Leonie España, vocation director; Fr. Zaldy Abonales, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bangkal; and Fr. Allan Rodriguez, Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

The group held a Mass on April 28 at the Manila Manor Hotel and an all-night vigil at the domestic airport April 29.

Community Mass

The God Loves Catholic Community will listen to Fr. Jose Maria Viola talk about the Alliance of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary during the 7 p.m. Mass on First Wednesday, May 4 at the Tertiary House on 5th St., New Manila.

Fr. Viola belongs to the Oblates Apostles of the Two Hearts, a contemplative community in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, where a church was built to venerate the Alliance of the Two Hearts. The Eucharistic Miracle is enshrined in the church for adoration. For inquiries, text Marie Pantoja at 0917-9041264.

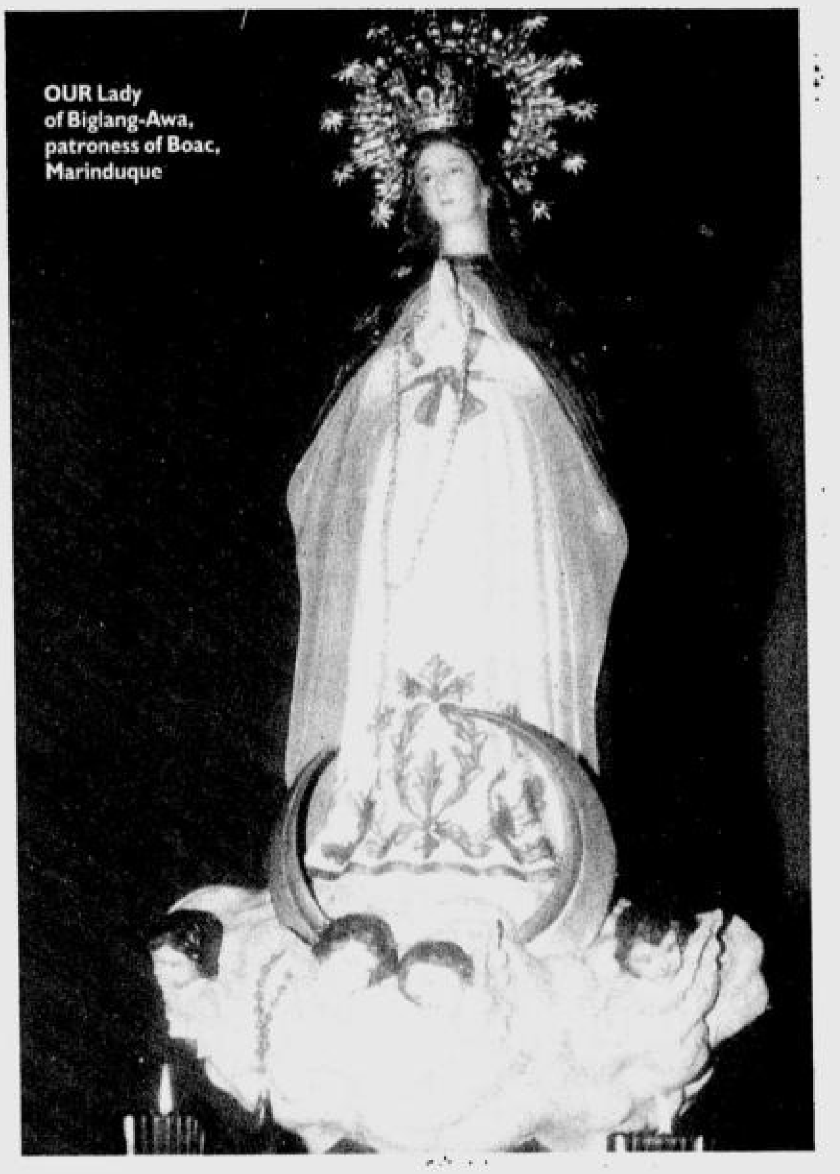
Wheelchair needed

A young man with a brain tumor needs a wheelchair. Text 0919-2169368. God bless you for your kindness.

Fr. Diwane Cacao will hold a healing Mass at 6 p.m., May 2 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Posadas Village, Muntinlupa City, and every first Monday until November.

Lady of the Abandoned

Sta. Ana Church marks the feast of Our Lady of the Abandoned May 12. Novena Masses will be held at 5:30 p.m., May 3-11. Archbishop Rosales will officiate at the concelebrated Mass at 9:30 a.m., May 12. Pilgrimage to the Camarin of the Virgin can be arranged with Philip Escudero, tel. 5820149/5644203.



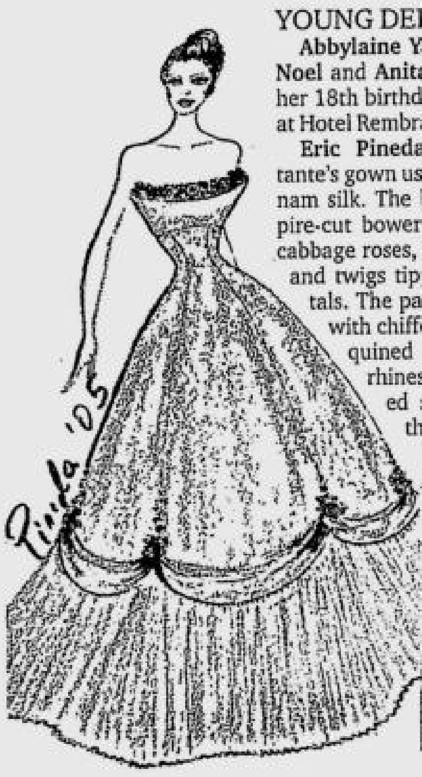
OUR Lady of Biglang-Awa, patroness of Boac, Marinduque

Milestones

YOUNG DEBUT

Abbylaine Yap Young, daughter of **Noel** and **Anita Young**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner dance at Hotel Rembrandt on May 7.

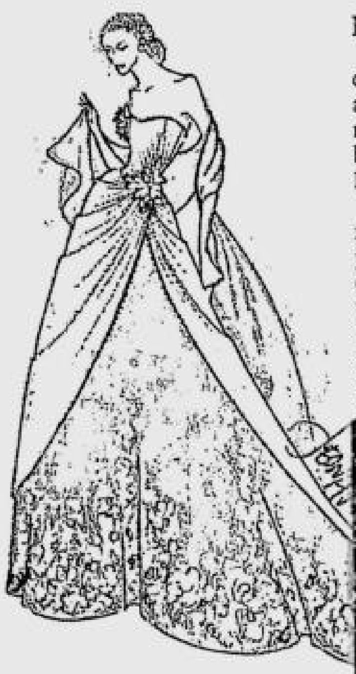
Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using carnation pink Vietnam silk. The bodice features an empire-cut bower filled with handmade cabbage roses, pleated organdy leaves and twigs tipped with German crystals. The panel-cut skirt is swathed with chiffon georgette held by sequined rose appliques and rhinestones. Sunburst-pleated silk organza completes the full skirt.



MARCOS DEBUT

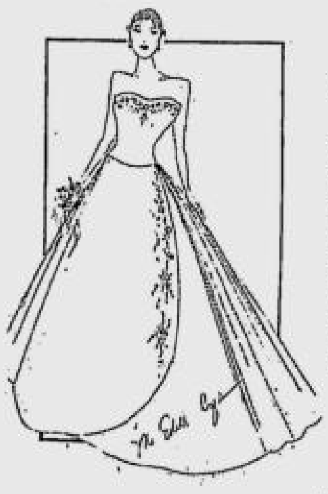
Cheryl Marcos, a nursing student in Far Eastern University and daughter of **Luis** and **Celerina Marcos**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Tivoli Royale.

Her grand cotillion gown made of two-toned frosted rose pink and light-magenta organza embroidered in jewel colors, with a bouffant drape skirt accented with ornamental brooch and beads, was made by **Leonard Co.**



CASTILLO DEBUT

Kristine Ann Gabrielle Castillo, daughter of **Gabriel** and **Agnes Castillo**, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at the main lounge of the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati City. Her gown was made by **Edith Lozada**.



CADUNGOG DEBUT

Johanna Vi Cadungog, a second year Mass Communication student of Miriam College and daughter of engineer **Jovito Cadungog Jr.** and **Victoria Tuparan**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on May 7 at the Mandarin Hotel. She is one of the debutantes of Manila's Johannes Strauss Society and Vienna Opera Ball. Her gown is by **Aureo Alonzo**, while the cake is a creation of **Alex Franco**.

ABALUNA-AMURAO

Garry Abaluna, son of **Gerson** and **Grace Abaluna**, exchanged vows with **Rhoda Amurao**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Aida Amurao**, on April 15 at the Santuario de San Antonio.

The bride wore an ecru duchess sateen off-shoulder pleated bodice and bouffant skirt fully beaded with cut crystal beads. Accentuated with a three-meter cathedral train in monochromatic shades of lilac, the gown is designed by **Leonard Co.**

BAURA SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Auguss and **Vangie Baura**, with son and daughter, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on April 21.

"BRIDE and groom" are showered with white confetti at Weddings at Westin.

Wedding march begins

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza opened the bridal season with "Weddings at Westin," launching the largest outdoor wedding venue in Manila—the Harbor Garden.

The venue can accommodate up to 2,800 people and has enough space to allow a flexibility in planning any event.

"Weddings at Westin" showcased four young Filipino designers in the bridal fashion show. Featured performer, the musical group 92 AD, did movie theme songs.

Dennis Lustico opened the show with his designs for a "princess bride." His clothes featured ruching at the waist and serpentine silhouettes reminiscent of the '50s.

Kate Torralba presented playful and funky interpretations of the traditional Filipiniana motif complete with her signature matching handbags.

The collection of Miguel Francisco of Njork drew inspiration from the classics. He put particular emphasis on the neckline, giving it some wave and fold using silk organza, silk chiffon and adding trendy pieces such as brooches and Swarovski crystals.

Patrice Ramos Diaz's used ultra-feminine details such as bustles, petticoats, tulle hems and satin sashes.

Maidenform, Calvin Klein Underwear and Josie Natori also presented their lingerie collections.

Rajo Laurel teamed up with Jewelmer in the "Romance in Pearls," pairing classic South Sea Pearls with the designer's evening wear creations. Laurel featured different shades of the color red.

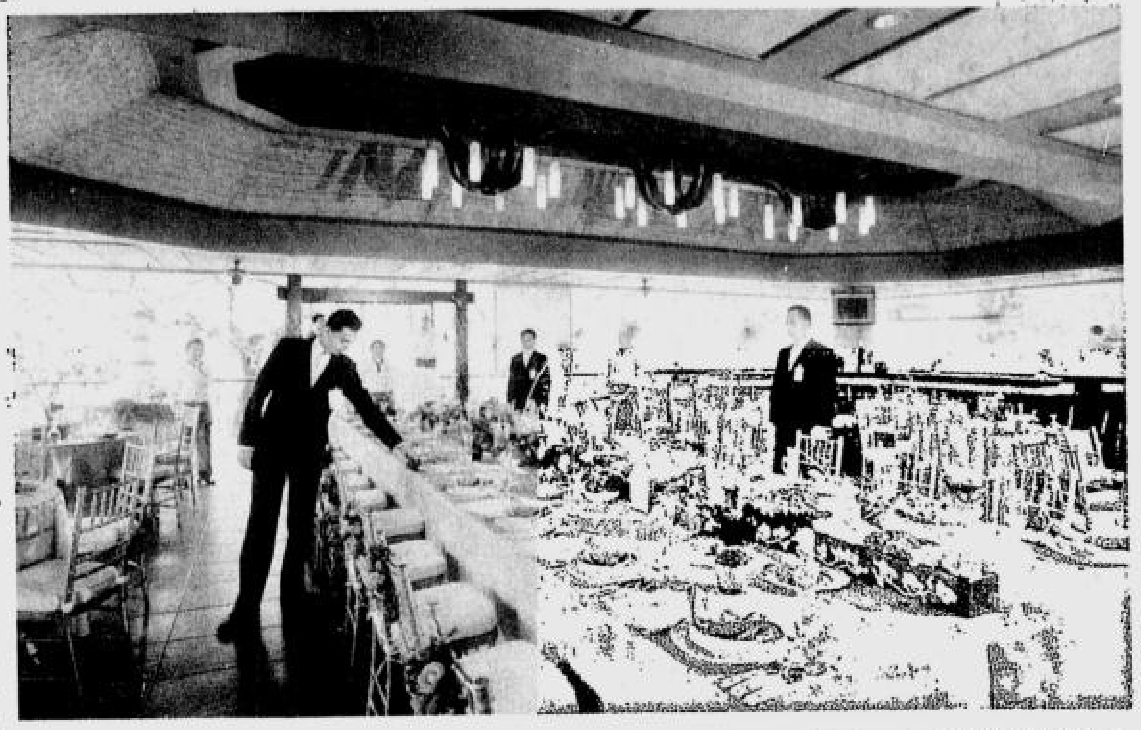
The Westin fair drew over 70 wedding suppliers. Wedding essentials were offered from wedding invitations that doubled as souvenirs, to lingerie, gowns, flowers and photographers.

In "Glamorous Brides, Stylish Grooms," makeover sessions were conducted by weight loss expert Dr. Joel Mendez and columnist Kinny Salas who, using Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics and Skincare, gave practical tips on bridal makeup.

Rita Neri of The Wedding Store and Johnny Yang talked about Bridal Do's and Don'ts and Good Fortune for 2005.

The event was staged with the support of Saga Events, Jewelmer, Elizabeth Arden, Maidenform, Natori, Calvin Klein Underwear, Nestle Pink Lemonade, kasal.com, and media partners The Philippine Daily Inquirer and 92.3 Joey.

Grand venue for dream weddings


ORIENTAL wedding

THE MERALCO Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC) Foundation Inc. is no longer just a place for training and development—now it is also a place for weddings.

The center has launched Weddings at MMLDC, featuring five creative and distinct ways to celebrate love and matrimony.

Agnes Fidelino, MMLDC managing director, said MMLDC also meant celebrating love and life, so it was appropriate that it should also be a venue for weddings. She said they had come up with creative ways for weddings according to a couple's personal taste and style.

By organizing the wedding, MMLDC would save couples the trouble of going from one supplier to the other, she added.

MMLDC went into weddings and other events because Fidelino said they noted a growing demand for more venues. The center also wanted to maximize use of its facilities.

With five halls to choose from, no two weddings at MMLDC would be exactly alike.

The ABB Hall, with its monochromatic motif, is laid out for a Classic Elegant Wedding. It offers a sit-down dinner of three courses—an appetizer (soup or salad), entrée and dessert.

The Areva Pavilion is the place for The Oriental Wedding. Bold colors—red, orange and yellow—are used. Japanese lanterns enhance the Oriental look. Umbrellas are provided for guests during outdoor ceremonies.

HERITAGE wedding

For a more laid-back but still very intimate affair, MMLDC offers The Paradise Wedding gazebo. It is suitable whether the ceremony is at sunrise or sunset, with its bright natural colors of yellow and green.

The Heritage Wedding at the Koi Pond is all about tradition. The place overflows with blooms of sampaguita and orchids, and is accented with Spanish lace, *jusi, piña, banig* and other very Filipino touches.

Have your nuptials in "paradise" at The Tropical Wedding by the Poolside. Lush greenery, bursts of colors and fruity flavors, give a different twist to the usual Luau wedding.

From invitations, to table napkins, food and wine, tokens and other details, MMLDC will be the coordinator taking care of almost everything.

Fidelino said all the couple had to do was choose their package, and show up for the wedding.

MMLDC is a corporate training facility that offers technical and engineering-related programs; safety, team building, as well as environment and waste management seminars. An ISO 9001:2000 certified center, it is a duly accredited non-profit education institution of the Philippine Council for NGO Certification.

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ALAMO■LIT■MIRAGE■OOZE
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BOOTSIIT■ZOMBIESHEADED
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■■■IDI■IAX■■ALIA■COMO
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■■ELS■NOTTOBOTHERTHEM
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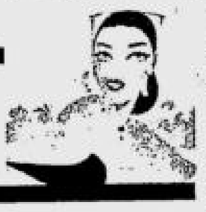
Glamorous Jackie



"Join my glamorous world"

Moony LIVE in Manila!

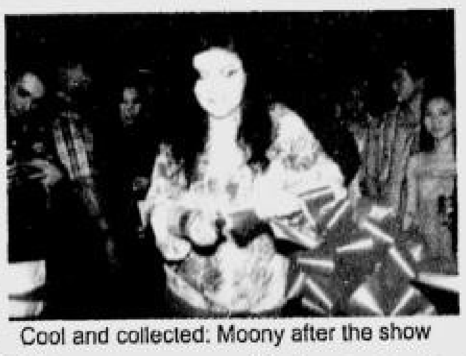
Darling partyphiles, house music has indeed come full circle and is back in town with an almighty bang! Believe me, this was made crystal clear just recently when the young and beautiful angels of Manila's hip nightlife winged it to Premiere THX Mile Long in Makati and found their Halo—the venue where Italian superstar Moony was to perform her first ever gig on our soil, thanks to fab event organizers Mint Manila and omnipresent sponsor AMP.

Anyhoo, the party was already kicking as early as 10pm, darlings, with *fantastique* Mint resident DJ Cao at the decks working it and psyching everybody up for Moony with a killer set, spinning his brand of smooth house beats while the crowd responded with energized cheers and fist pumps. And *oooh*, those who appreciated his brand of house (and darlings, that was pretty much *everybody in la casa*) can get their fix through BPM, which airs every Friday at 923 Joey FM from 12 midnight to 2am.

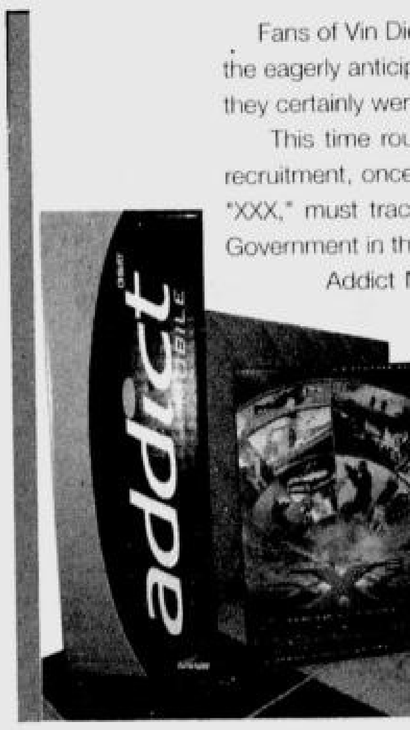
Shortly before 1am, just as DJ Cao had his crowd approaching their peak, Moony took the stage and decibel levels hit the roof with the rapturous reception she received. Her fans must've felt zero gravity as she belted out the clubland anthem "Flying Away", followed by other favorites like "Dove (I"ll Be Loving You Forever), "Point of View", "Acrobats" and a surprise number as her encore—"He's All I Want", her 1999 debut hit back in the days she was known as Angel Moon. To end the heavenly gig, a closing set was served by local female deejay "DJ Trintity" of Club Halo.

The Italian Sensation

And darlings, what better night for Moony to unleash her catchy house tunes on us than last Saturday. Because for the party angels who went *flying* away to other shindigs after her last number, myself included, I gazed up into the night sky, and lo and behold—a bright, full moon shone down on me! "Pure sweetness", I mused to myself, and nothing more than a good omen signaling many more nights ahead when the young and young at heart of Manila's party set gravitate to the electrifying parties that only AMP can deliver!


Cool and collected: Moony after the show

Addict Mobile at the "XXX: State of the Union" premiere



Fans of Vin Diesel and the 2003 sleeper hit "XXX" trooped to Rockwell just recently for the Addict Mobile premiere of the eagerly anticipated sequel, "XXX: State of the Union". And if raw, non-stop in-your-face action is what they came for, they certainly weren't disappointed.

This time round, NSA Agent Augustus Gibbons (Samuel L. Jackson), fresh off the success of his last renegade recruitment, once again finds himself in need of an outsider. Gibbons and his new agent (Ice Cube), also code-named "XXX," must track a dangerous military splinter group led by Willem Dafoe that is conspiring to overthrow the U.S. Government in the nation's capital.

Addict Mobile subscribers merely had to flash their Addict Mobile VIP cards for free tickets to the premiere. Addict Mobile premium items were also dished out, making the whole experience a more memorable one.

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Eager "XXX" fans make their way inside

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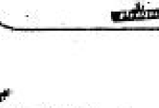

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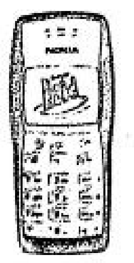

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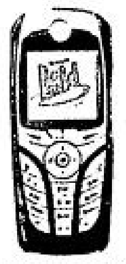

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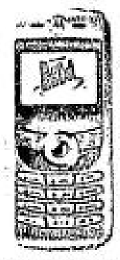

MOTOROLA C375 (MMS)
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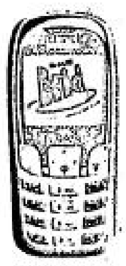

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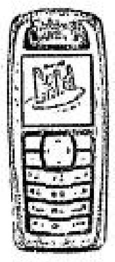

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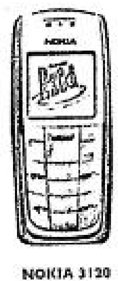

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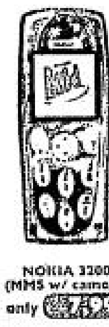

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Plans 300 and 600 are available under 12 months contract period except for the following handsets. Motorola C375 is under 24 months contract period at Plans 300 & 600; Nokia 2300 is under 24 months contract period at Plan 600; Nokia 1100 is under 18 months contract period at Plans 300 & 600; Nokia 3315 is under 24 months contract period at Plan 300 and 18 months contract period at Plan 600; Nokia 3200, Siemens A65 & Motorola C380 are all under 18 months contract period at Plan 300.

Promo extended until May 15, 2005. Approved by DTI-NCR.
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Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111, or call *888 (toll free), e-mail us at smartkid@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SUNDAY,
MAY 1, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE RIVER cascades down the foothills of the twin mountains.

A town of both legend and history

By Vicky S. Mendoza
Contributor

THE HEAT of the noonday sun made everything shimmer. In the distance, the twin mountains that form a gorge, shone brilliantly like jewels.

Lying at Metro Manila's fringe, Montalban in Rizal is home to the Montalban gorge, where a river's path gave rise to numerous caves over millions of years.

Mt. Pamitinan on the left and Mt. Binicayan on the right flank the mighty Wawa River that became a major source of energy in the last century when the Wawa Dam was built.

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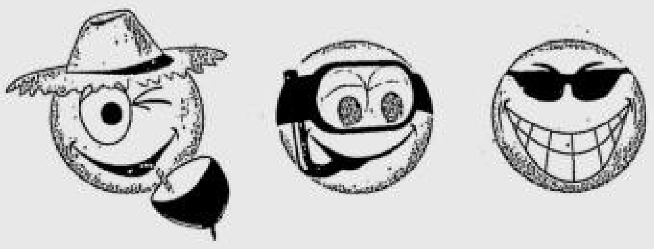

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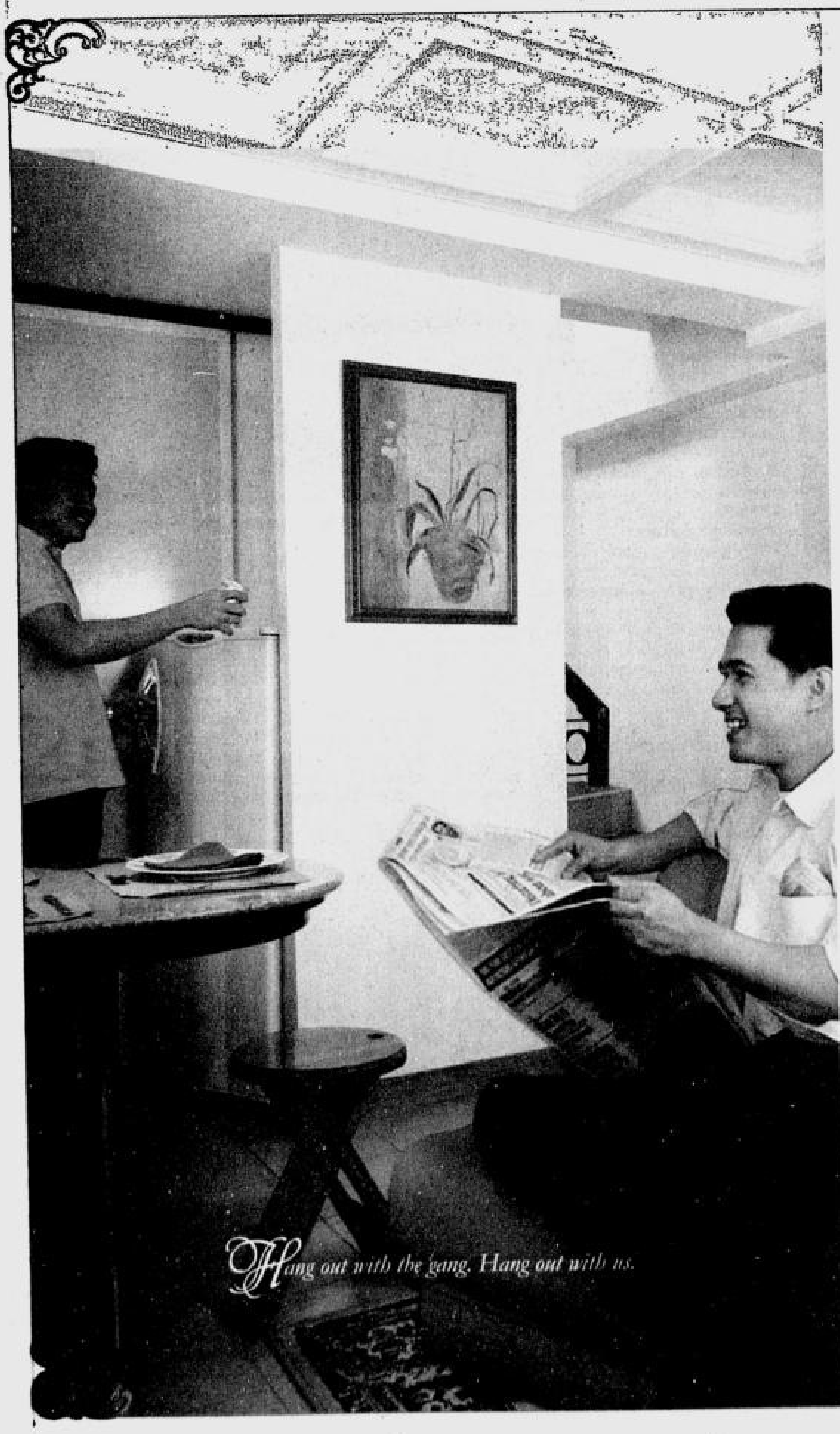

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Anilao's continuing allure

Text and photos by Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

AREAS of interest in Batangas include Lipá (think of multi-awarded The Farm at San Benito, the city's cathedral and the shrine to Our Lady, where miraculous events unfolded during the late 1940s); Taal Volcano and the heritage town of Taal, (with its basilica); the marine sanctuary of Lobó, the beach of Malabrigo Point, and the resorts in Nasugbu, Talisay and Calatagan.

Then there's Anilao in Mabini, long a mecca for Pinoy and foreign divers with its 23 diving sites.

Anilao is over 80 km south of Manila, a 2 ½-hour ride if traffic is light-moderate. Take Exit 50 (to Calamba) of the South Expressway, passing through the new Star (Santo Tomas-Lipá) Tollway, and then on to Cuenca, Alitagtag and Bauan.

Anilao lies on the western seaboard of the Calumpang Peninsula, facing Balayan Bay. To the east is Batangas Bay, and to the south Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. Proceed to the secluded southern tip, passing through a fascinating, long and winding zigzag road with a stone embankment, bracketed by trees and flowers, and you will come upon Eagle Point, the largest resort in Anilao-Mabini.

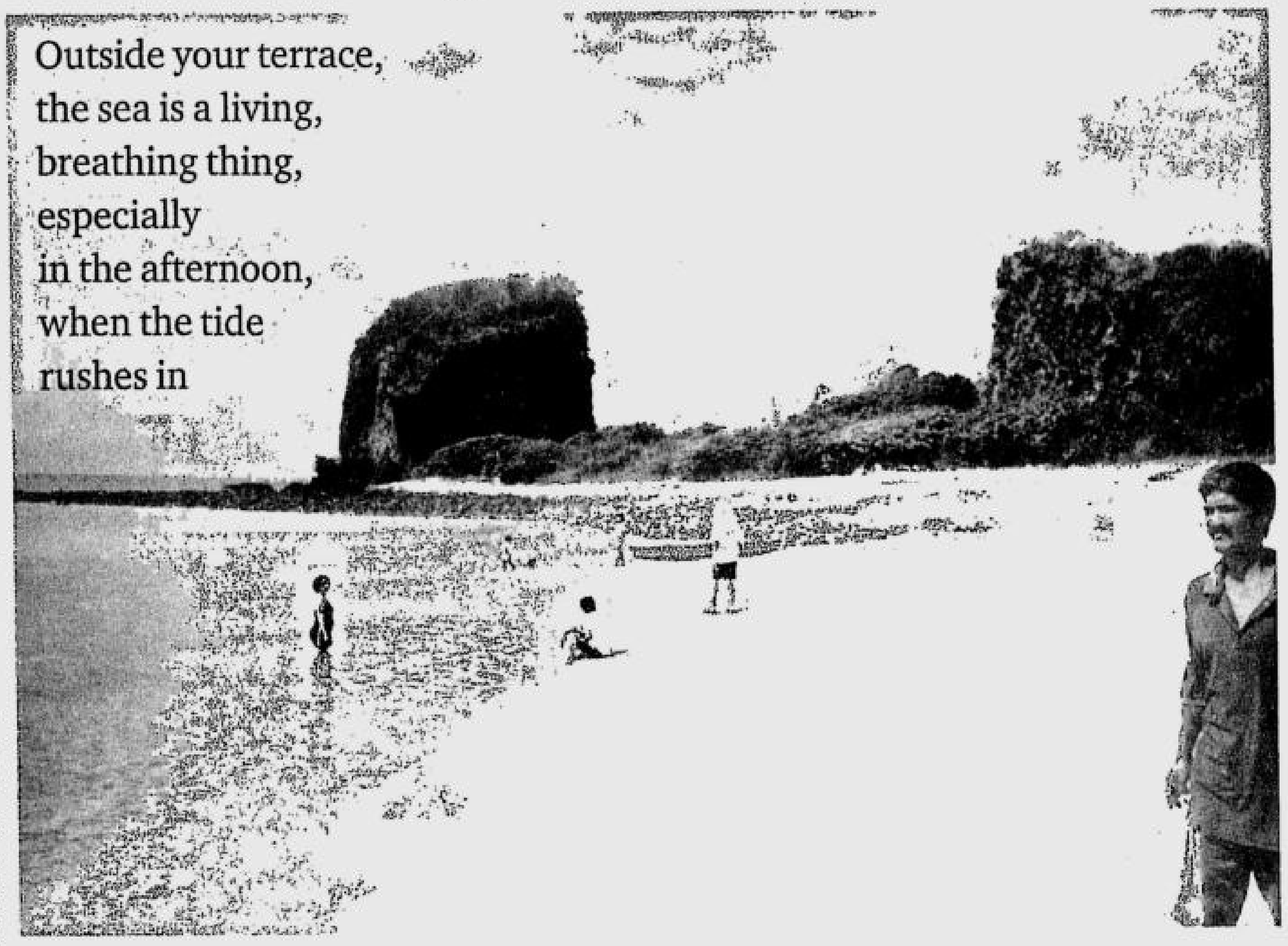
The resort sprawls and juts out of a well-maintained mountainside facing the sea, with clear waters and a rugged beach strewn with boulders.

Eagle Point has 51 rooms, which face the sea, a saltwater reef pool right beside the bay, two sculptural freshwater pools with a slide, which delights the kids, a walk-through aviary and butterfly park, tennis court and, among other amenities, aqua sports facilities and a dive center.

Birthplace of scuba diving

"Anilao is the birthplace of scuba diving in the Philippines," declared dive instructor Lito Castillo. "It is famous for macro photography, that is, small fishes like nudibranch, seahorses and shrimps. Here you will see mostly a variety of reef fishes and coral reefs. The coral reefs are in good shape, *talagang* (truly) healthy. These are nice corals, hard and soft."

Some of the major dive sites have been declared marine sanctuaries. There's The Cathedral, so called because a cross was planted there during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos. "It is famous for checkout divers, or those who have just graduated from diving lessons," said Castillo. (It takes three to four days of continuous lessons at Eagle Point to become a certified diver.)



Outside your terrace, the sea is a living, breathing thing, especially in the afternoon, when the tide rushes in

RUGGED Sepoc Island of Eagle Point, off Anilao-Mabini

Sombrero and Beatice dive sites are popular among regular divers. But "Bahura is for advanced divers because the current is strong. But it can be for beginners if the current is slack."

There are two dive spots in front of the resort. As the brochure puts it, "You don't have to rent a boat to get there. Just jump off the pier, dive 60 feet down, move a little to the left and a little to the right, and you are in the wonderful world of the coral reef."

CUTE little guest and siblings enjoy pool.

EAGLE Point jutting out of a well-maintained mountainside

The reef pool is a simulated ecosystem which is home to several baby sharks and *pawikan* (marine turtles). Feeding time is 8-9 a.m., and the guests are encouraged to feed and even swim with the docile little creatures of the sea.

"We rescued these baby sharks and *pawikan* from the sea or bought them from fishermen," said Eagle Point GM Ton Francisco. "When they grow up we tag them and release them to the sea." He adds, "the reef pool is one of the highlights of the resort. The other is the island, Sepoc."

There are several islands near the mainland, including Sombrero, Maricaban and Sepoc, a scenic portion of which is owned by the resort and called the Sepoc Beach Center.

Good seascape

So off we went to the island, which was a brief but jarring speedboat ride away.

The seascape at Sepoc is as good as any you'll find in Southern Tagalog. Red and green cliffs (which turn brown during the summer) surround the white-sand beach cove, which has an open-air, native-style dining hall, hammocks, hiking trail and a beach volleyball area.

It is a must for guests to come here and dine, swim, snorkel, play volleyball or just laze around and read.

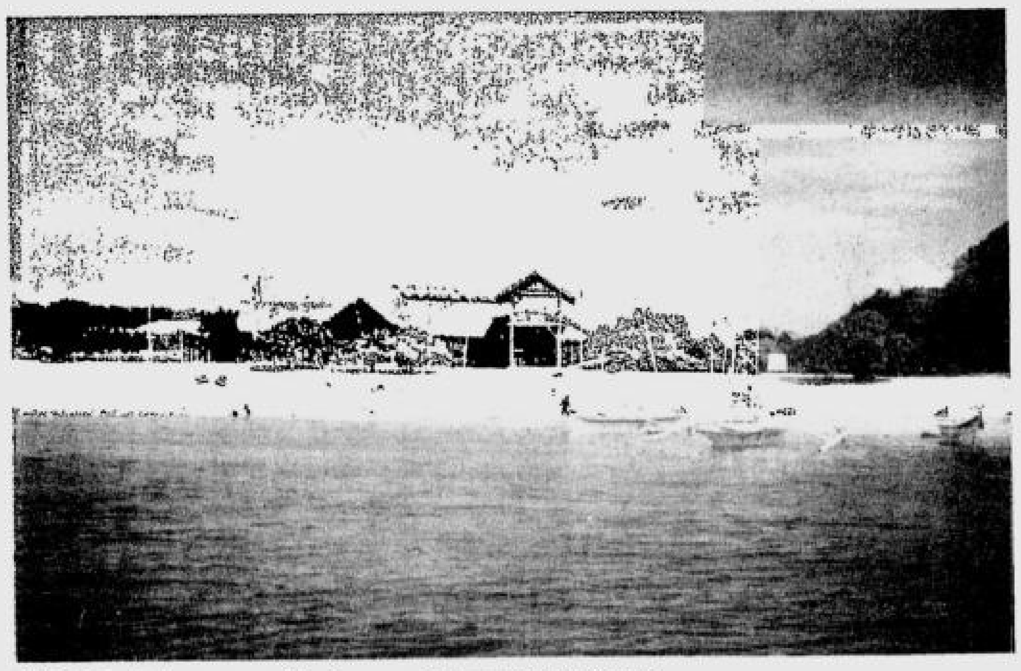
The resort's centerpiece is called the "Main Core," which includes the main restaurant-bar, conference room, game room and other facilities. Recommended here are the fresh seafood, like shrimps and *talakitok* fish, vegetables and, of course, *barako* coffee. "*Ito ang ipinagmamalaking Batangas* (this is Batangas' pride)," said one waiter.

In the evening, while decorously sipping my gin tonic, I ordered as *pulutan* (bar chow) a pizza margarita, but found it wasn't that great.

The resort has cottages, terrace rooms, suites and cabañas, all with verandas facing the sea. Outrigger boats rented by the tourists as well as by local commuters come and go. The Batangas mainland on the other side of the coast projects the illusion that it is a series of big islands.

Outside your terrace, the sea is a living, breathing thing, especially in the afternoon, when the tide rushes in. In the evenings, as dusk descends upon the peninsula, lights from fishing boats and the coastal towns punctuate the darkness. The sea grows still, although occasionally you hear the murmur of the waves.

FEEDING the baby sharks and marine turtles in reef pool



SEPOC Beach Center, one of the few areas in Luzon with white sand

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Value trips to Singapore

JETSTAR Asia has begun flying daily round-trip flights between Manila and Singapore. The Singapore-based value-for-money airline began operations in December 2004 with daily flights between Hong Kong and Singapore. Routes to Taiwan (Taipei) and Thailand (Bangkok) soon followed, and more intra-Asia destinations will become available in the second quarter of 2005.

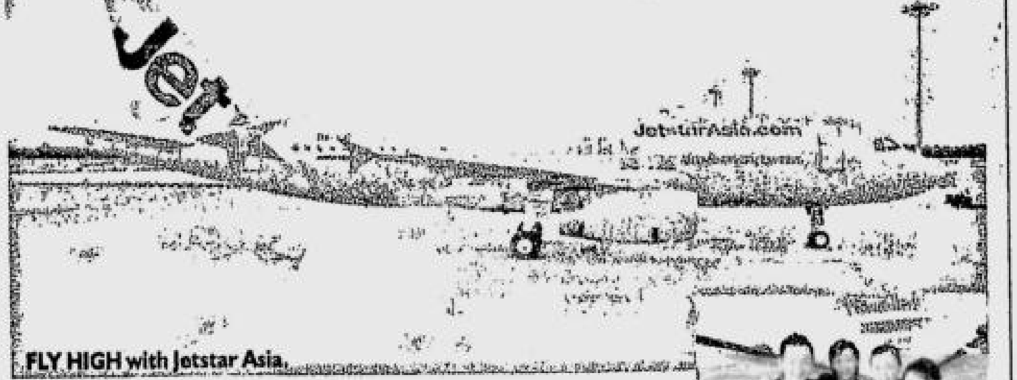
To celebrate the Manila launch, a special introductory price for one-way airfares from Manila to Singapore was offered at US$59. After which, everyday low fares will start from US$79. Tickets are available for purchase at www.jetstarasia.com, or call (632) 8104744 in Metro Manila.

JETSTAR Asia CEO Ken Ryan

Jetstar Asia is the first value-for-money airline to be given rights to fly into Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Jetstar Asia CEO Ken Ryan says, "With the affordable rates and the convenience of flying from the primary international airport in the Philippines, we look forward to bringing more Filipinos to Singapore."

All Jetstar Asia aircraft are brand-new Airbus A320s that come equipped with leather seating for maximum comfort. Customers will be provided assigned seating and a generous 20-kg baggage allowance. A broad range of hot meals and snack and beverage items will be available for purchase on all flights.

Jetstar Asia is also the first value-for-money airline to offer passengers in-flight entertainment service. Passengers will be able to watch popular movies, sitcoms and music videos via a state of-the-art "Video On Demand" portable digital entertainment system called the digEplayer. They can enjoy a choice of 10 movies, 8 sitcoms and 100 audio tracks.



FLY HIGH with Jetstar Asia.

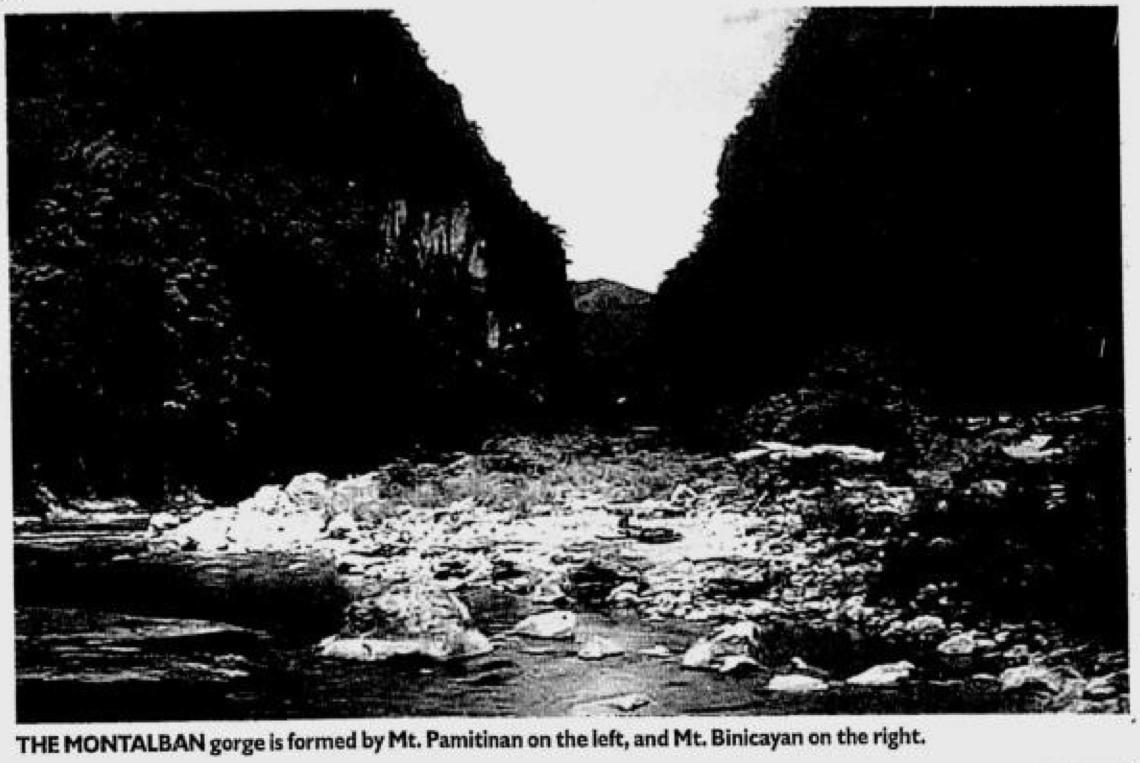
JETSTAR'S friendly crew

A town of both legend and history

From page F1

Montalban is also the setting of enduring folklore, the legend of Bernardo Carpio, the town strongman. The story goes that, with his bare hands, Carpio stopped the mountains from colliding and crushing the villages on the riverbanks.

The legend of Bernardo Carpio, the Filipino equivalent of strongmen Atlas and Samson, was born in Montalban


THE MONTALBAN gorge is formed by Mt. Pamitinan on the left, and Mt. Binicayan on the right.

He took the fancy of one "*engkanto*" and she sought to test his strength. She captured him and chained him to the wall of one of the caves. Every 100 hundred years, he manages to break one chain, shaking the earth in the process. Supposedly, he will become completely free in this century and will deliver the Filipinos from bondage.

Scientific records actually indicate that the gorge was created 25 million years ago when limestone formations started to appear and accumulate, and combined with the remains of marine organisms that lived there when the area was still a shallow sea.

Earthquakes caused movement, leaving the limestone in its present site. The river's continuous flow along the limestone cracks formed caves and channels. In one of these caves, history was made.

The Pamitinan cave hosted a very important meeting between Andres Bonifacio and the Katipuneros on April 10, 1895. The hero and eight other revolutionaries made the long journey to San Mateo on a *calesa*.

After a brief rest, they proceeded on to the cave in Montalban, weaving deep into its tunnel, then stopping in an isolated chamber. Inside the cave, historians believe, the first cry for independence was made, with the group vowing to fight for freedom. Bonifacio and his men etched the words "*Viva la Independencia*" on the wall and signed their names.

Three decades later, Teodoro M. Kalaw, then head of the National Library, organized an expedition to verify this story. He was accompanied by a member of the 1895 group, Guillermo Masangkay.

With the natural movement of the earth, the ground level rose in some areas, making the passageway narrower. The group negotiated the treacherous terrain for several hours, sometimes crawling, until it reached an elevation that led to a wide wall.

With light from torches, the group saw unmistakable proof—the names of Bonifacio and the eight others, with the date April 11, 1895. The statement itself, "*Viva la Independencia,*" had been written over by more recent visitors and had become illegible. But the names were unmistakable.

Kalaw also wrote his own name on the left wall about 400 meters into the cave.

In World War II, the cave became the hiding place of fleeing Japanese soldiers, many of whom died. In their memory, the Japanese government erected a marker at the entrance.

Today, the cave remains a historical and natural jewel. Interesting stalactite and stalagmite formations, resembling chandeliers, altars and the like, still adorn the cave walls. Sadly, vandals have sawed off some of the formations, bringing them home as tabletop décor.

To prevent further damage, the area has been placed under the Protected Areas Management Bureau. While still open to visitors, a gate has been constructed at the entrance to regulate people's coming and going.

Visitors who want a guided tour can ask at the foothills for Mang Antek, the town's official caretaker of the Wawa River grounds and a resident since the '50s.

A HANGING bridge brings one safely across the river.

PAMITINAN Cave was the site of the first meeting of the Katipunan in 1895.

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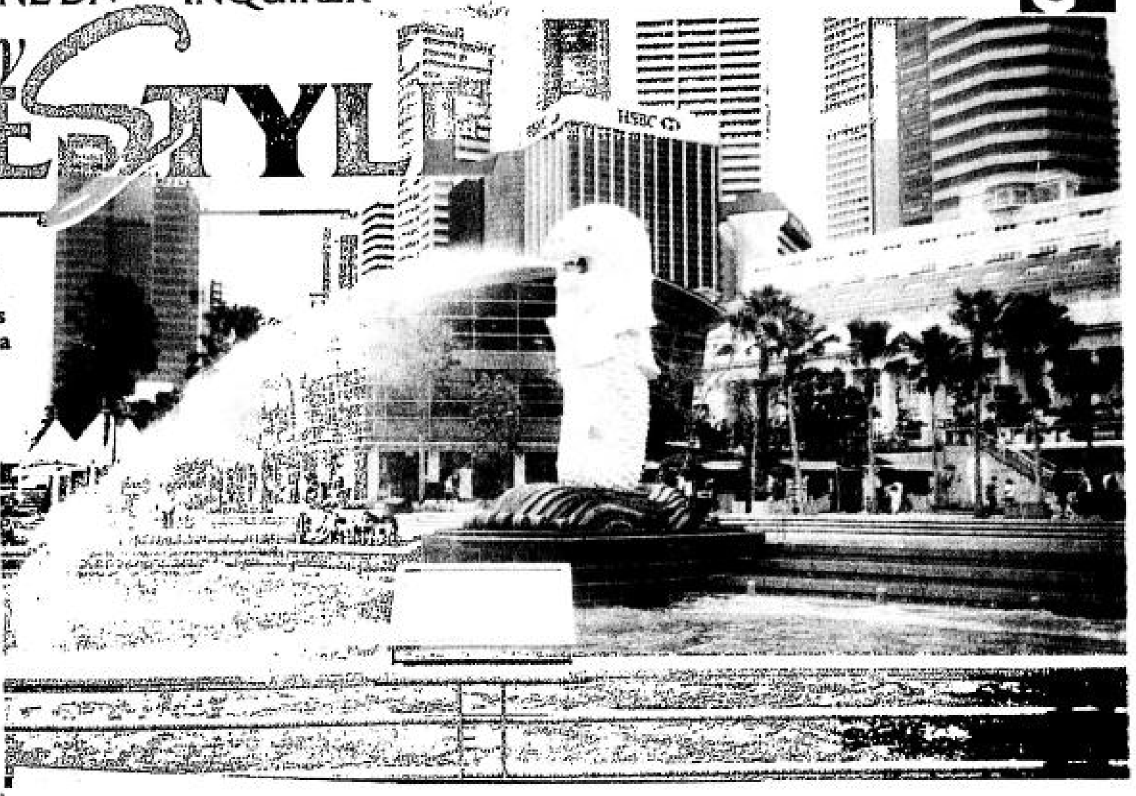
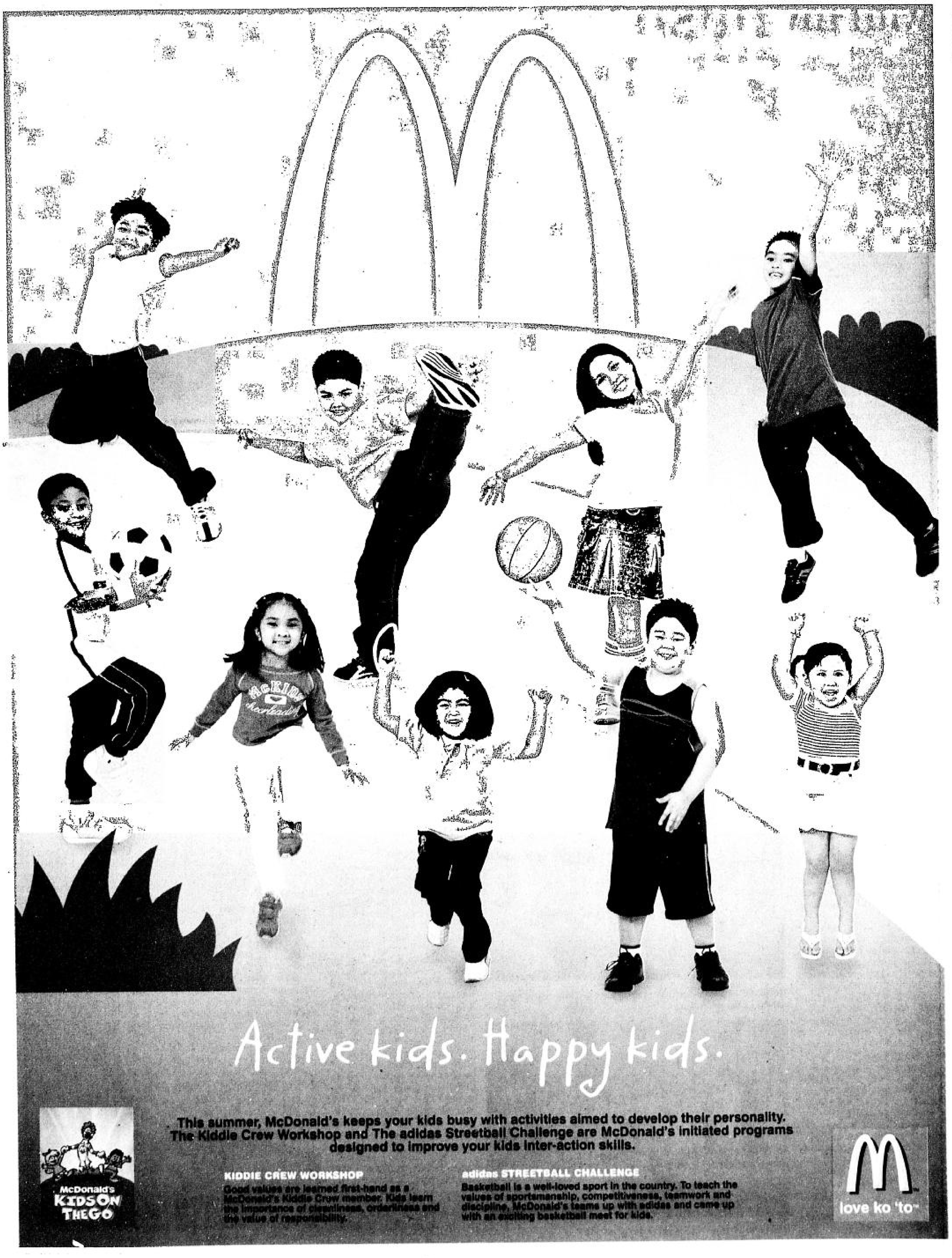
Travels with my husband

On learning he is your husband, cabbie says, "He's very handsome." That earns him a tip of one ringgit

STORY ON PAGE G2



THE MERLION, symbol of Singapore, pours forth water into a river.



This summer, McDonald's keeps your kids busy with activities aimed to develop their personality. The Kiddie Crew Workshop and The adidas Streetball Challenge are McDonald's initiated programs designed to improve your kids inter-action skills.

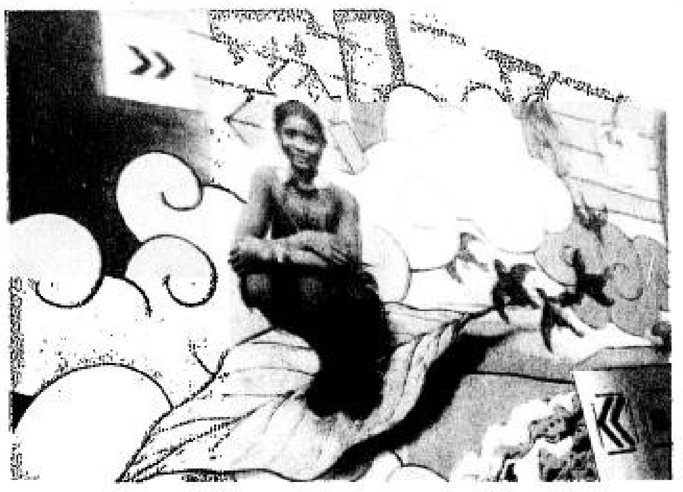
KIDDIE CREW WORKSHOP

Good values are learned first-hand as a McDonald's Kiddie Crew member. Kids learn the importance of cleanliness, orderliness and the value of responsibility.

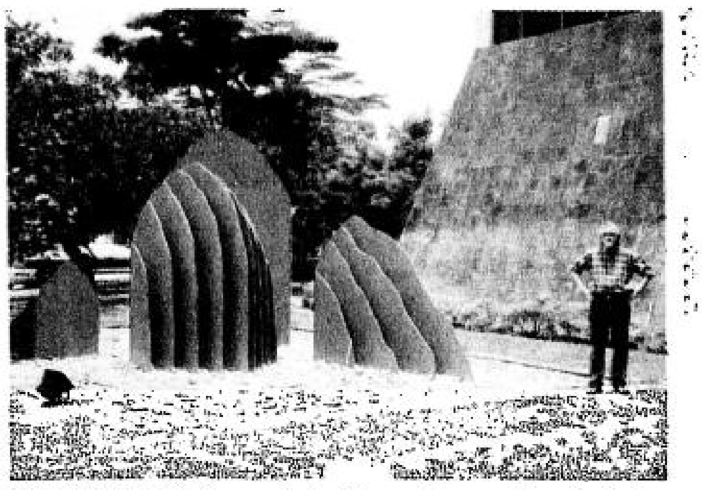
adidas STREETBALL CHALLENGE

Basketball is a well-loved sport in the country. To teach the values of sportsmanship, competitiveness, teamwork and discipline, McDonald's teams up with adidas and came up with an exciting basketball meet for kids.

TOURIST takes a close look at Chong Fah Chong's bronze sculpture "Another Day—The Coolies" at the Esplanade's courtyard.

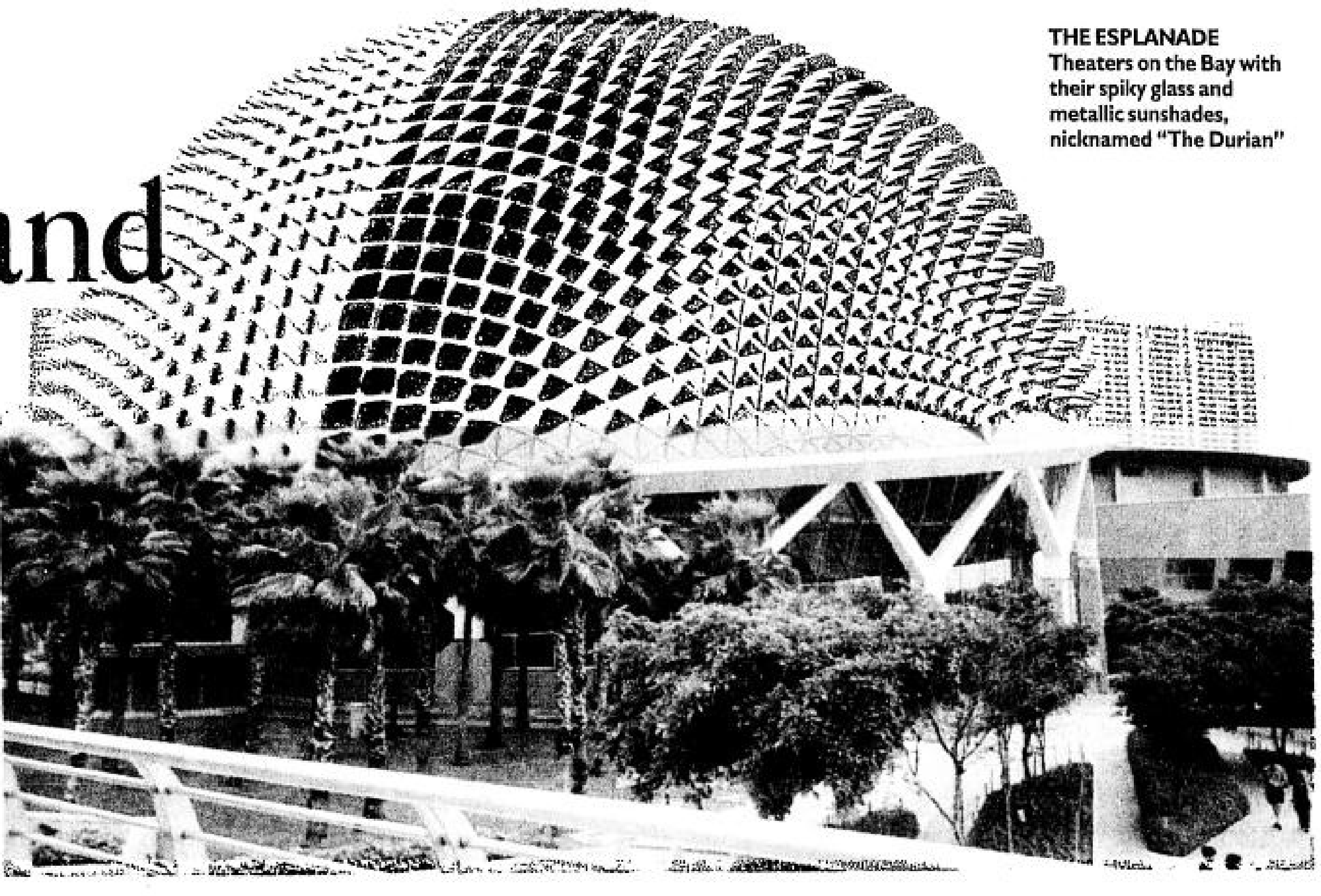


DETAIL of the mural shows a Cordillera maiden.



JOURNALIST Rolly Fernandez beside an outdoor sculpture in Kuala Lumpur

Travels with my husband



THE ESPLANADE Theaters on the Bay with their spiky glass and metallic sunshades, nicknamed "The Durian"

Text and photos by Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

THE PETRONAS Twin Towers all lit up

WHAT weird alchemy happens when husband and wife who lead separate lives in two cities (he in Baguio, you in Pasig) are suddenly within each other's radius in a foreign land for the first time in 20 years?

In the car to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, you tell him about a conversation you overheard between writers Gilda Cordero Fernando and Sylvia M. Ventura about traveling with one's spouse. Gilda said among the best times she and husband Marcelo had was when they were abroad because he was generous with money and they always ate well.

It is a hint, but since he is a journalist and an assistant professor, not a corporate executive, all he can afford is a shopping allowance of $100 for you and the two girls.

On the drive to the so-called Golden Triangle where JW Marriott Hotel is located, the endless analysis of what is taking the Philippines so long to catch up with its neighbors begins. You tune off. Your mantra has been there is nothing like your own country to curse and love in equal measure.

On the hotel's 18th floor, you have a room with a window that looks out to the Petronas Twin Towers. Think Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta Jones in "Entrapment."

Morning means breakfast buffet at the poolside. Your taste buds are teased awake by *nasi lemak* (coconut rice) and assorted condiments with fiery *sambal* (Malaysian chili paste).

Showcase of cultures

Husband and you head for the National Art Gallery (NAG). The NAG building combines cultures—one part seems like a mosque and another like a Malay house. Inside is a winding runway like what you've seen in pictures of the Guggenheim. You take it in lieu of the elevator to visit each floor where your eyes take in Tsai Horng Chung's paintings that combine oriental and Western idioms, the entries and winners in the Asean photo contest and the Lee Kah Yeow collection.

You note Lee's 10 principles of life, particularly No. 7 wherein the painter donates his collection to Nanyang University Singapore and NAG "as I believe art should be shared with as many people as possible." No. 10 has him giving up all properties, retaining a Bukit Ceylon villa and explaining, "I do not fret over my children and grandchildren as they can take care of themselves."

Husband introduces you to S. Amin Shahab who is on a mission to do the world's longest pen drawing on canvas that will go around a stadium. He broke the Malaysian Book of Records and hopes to break the Guinness with a kilometer-long work that uses Artline black pens. The fellow has also translated into Malaysian five of Freddie Aguilar's songs.

Proudly Pinoy

A proud-to-be Pinoy moment is the outdoor mural "Perahu Kamalayan" by the Anting-anting group composed of Filipino painters Alfredo Esquillo Jr., Emmanuel Garibay, Jose Austria, Joseph Logranco, Lawrence Borsoto and Wilfredo ,Alicdan. The mural envisions a reversal of poverty wherein "victims are vindicated and victimizers are punished by drowning in the sea of chaos they themselves created."

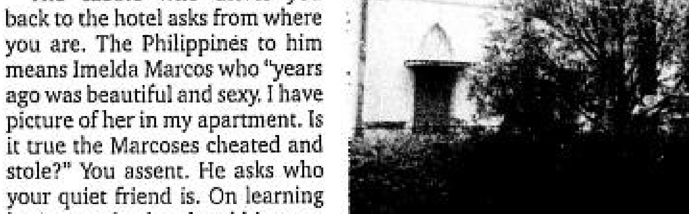
You take the monorail to Pudu. Husband likens it to the industrial part of Binondo and hunts for accessories for his aquarium while you wander into a Buddhist temple to buy two ringgits' worth of incense sticks and to a store selling Hawaiian shirts. You pick out the most outrageous to brighten up his staid line of hand-me-down Polo shirts.

The cabbie who drives you back to the hotel asks from where you are. The Philippines to him means Imelda Marcos who "years ago was beautiful and sexy. I have picture of her in my apartment. Is it true the Marcoses cheated and stole?" You assent. He asks who your quiet friend is. On learning he is your husband, cabbie says, "He's very handsome." That earns him a tip of one ringgit.

In the evening you go to the train station to buy round-trip tickets for two for Singapore. You tell husband second class is fine, but he says with an intent look, "I'd be shamed for life if we don't go first class."

CHIJMES, a church in Singapore converted into a convention hall

"THE SOUND of Music" comes to tour in KL.



INTERIOR of the Singapore Philatelic Museum with a charming exhibit on tea and coffee

BREAKFAST crowd at Singaporean restaurant

'Sequined gown'

Next stop is the observation deck of Kuala Lumpur Tower, the fourth tallest telecommunications tower in the world soaring at 421 meters on Pineapple Hill, where the city spreads out before you like a heavily sequined gown.

On the train the next day, the view from the window is of palm trees and banana plantations and occasional piles of rubbish and logs. He says, "It's like we're in the heart of Quezon or Albay."

After six-and-a-half hours, you step out of Woodlands train station onto Singaporean soil. He exchanges his American currency for Singaporean dollars and is appalled to discover that the exchange rate is $1:S$1.60. "We'll have to scrimp," he announces with finality. You head for the nearest McDonald's for a late lunch.

Lee, his niece who meets you at the restaurant, is shocked that your first meal is fast food, but you say it's the first time you dipped fries in chili sauce.

Lee reads from your face that you are exhausted so, together, you have a relaxing 20-minute foot massage at Joyous Reflexology at the Peninsula Shopping Center. Masseuse Joea interprets the bumps on your legs as signs of too much wind in your body that causes imbalance. She advises, "Your body heat is too much. Drink more water. Eat cooling food like fruits, vegetables, soup. Stay away from fried food." While all this rubbing with Nivea cream is going on, husband is trying to snag bargains that will fit his stringent budget in a stamp dealer's shop upstairs.

You sample the island-state's efficient subway rail system when Lee takes you to different spots, among them Clarke Quay with its lilypad platforms outside high-end bars and restaurants. It is at Borders where you get your high. She intuits that her uncle and you are trembling at the sight of a wide store space for books.

A book each

He allows you one book purchase—you settle for Peter Mayle's latest, "A Good Year," while he chooses "The Chief," a biography of publisher William Randolph Hearst.

Before making your choices, you wander for over an hour from shelf to shelf, happily taking down volume after volume that aren't shrink-wrapped like the ones back home.

After another night of little sleep, you take the subway and pass through Citylink, an underground mall that connects to the Esplanade, likened by some critics to the eyes of a fly, the *durian* or two aardvarks mating. Not far from it is the famed fountain, the Merlion, and the plaque carries an Edwin Thumboo poem ("Nothing, nothing in my days/ Foreshadowed this/ Half-beast, half-fish,/ This powerful creature of land and sea").

On to the Singapore Art Museum, with the world's biggest public collection of contemporary Southeast Asian art. It is exhibiting its Thai collection and works of art pioneers like Georgette Chen, credited for being the country's first female artist with a cosmopolitan background. Photographer Tay Kay Chin, who works on a panoramic format, frankly speaks out about Singapore: "The truth is, I have never really liked my country. I felt that things were too controlled, and there were not enough opportunities for artists like myself... Singapore, whatever its imperfections, is my home."

It is a thought you take back home. In the plane, husband awkwardly hugs you, restrained by the seatbelt. He never looked more handsome. And nothing like returning to Pilipinas, the country you can alternately curse and love.

THE MURAL "Perahu Kamalayan" painted by Filipino artists at the National Arts Gallery Malaysia

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HAKBANG SA KINABUKASAN

SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD–PHILIPPINES SUPPORTS GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION
In support of the Unang Hakbang sa Kinabukasan Program, the Singapore Tourism Board–Philippines (STB-P) donated P300,000 to GMA Kapuso Foundation during the turnover ceremony held recently at The Peninsula Manila. The program aims to provide basic school materials such as papers, notebooks and pencils to children of poor families. Photo shows (from left) Area Director Singapore Tourism Board Philippines and Brunei Rocson Chang, GMA Kapuso Foundation Executive Director Mel Tiangco, Singapore Ambassador Lim Kheng Hua, RGMA Network Inc. President Mike Enriquez and GMA Network Assistant to the President and Head/Community Relations Inc. Rod Cornejo.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Attractions of Camiguin

TOURISM Sec. Joseph Ace Durano has included Camiguin Island among DOT's eight priority destinations, forming a tourist hub together with Cebu and Bohol. The island hosts a number of resorts, most of which are located in Mambajao and Mahinog where the principal landmarks and attractions are situated. There are several ways to reach Camiguin. From Manila, direct flights via Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, or Air Philippines will bring you to Cagayan de Oro City. From the airport, take a cab to the Agora Market bus terminal and get on a bus for Balingoan. From there, take a ferry bound for Benoni Wharf in the town of Mahinog, some 17 kilometers from the capital, Mambajao. Alternatively, you may prefer a three-hour ferry ride from the Cagayan de Oro Ferry Terminal to Guinsiliban.

1st Singapore Airlines A380

THE FIRST Singapore Airlines A380 takes shape at the final assembly line in the Airbus Headquarters in Toulouse, France with the installation of the tail fin measuring 14.1 meters high and 12.9 meters wide. Singapore Airlines will be the first airline in the world to fly the Airbus A380 in 2006. The airline made the order for 25 A380s in 2000.

May madness at Westin

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza's May Madness comes rushing in as you stay overnight in one of the luxurious rooms for as low as P4,700 net with buffet breakfast for two this month and get another overnight accommodation for free in June. Enjoy access to the sports club and spa and swimming pool. Valid for local residents only. Rooms for the promo are subject to availability and not applicable on Fridays and Saturdays. Free room does not include breakfast and cannot be in conjunction with other promos. Prior reservation is advised. Call 832-6910.

Mandarin's dream getaway

MANDARIN Oriental Manila's Dream Getaway promo offers a vacation for two at The Marco Polo, Davao for two nights, inclusive of breakfast for two persons at The Cafe Marco with roundtrip tickets to Davao courtesy of Cebu Pacific, and a vacation for two at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort for two nights, inclusive of breakfast, airport and roundtrip boat transfers. The second draw will be held on June 30. All local residents who will avail of the local residents' package within the promo period from Feb. 25 to Dec. 31 are eligible to join. Call 750-8888.

Hyatt's new local resident's rate

HYATT Hotel and Casino Manila introduces an unbeatable rate for local residents, overseas Filipinos and local expatriates. They may avail of the special USD 81.00++rate. This promo is ongoing until June 15. Call 245-1234.

SilkAir's passenger load surpasses 1 million

SILKAIR, regional wing of Singapore Airlines, notched up its highest ever passenger numbers in single year since its inception in 1989. 1,089,190 passengers flew with SilkAir for the year ending March 31, 2005, up 22.3 percent over FY 03/04.

A full-service network carrier, SilkAir currently operates services to and from 26 destinations in Indonesia, China, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. It operates daily services to Cebu and Davao. SilkAir is the first Asian carrier to offer handheld portable video-on-demand in-flight entertainment in the form of digEplayer 5500. This is available on flights to China and India.

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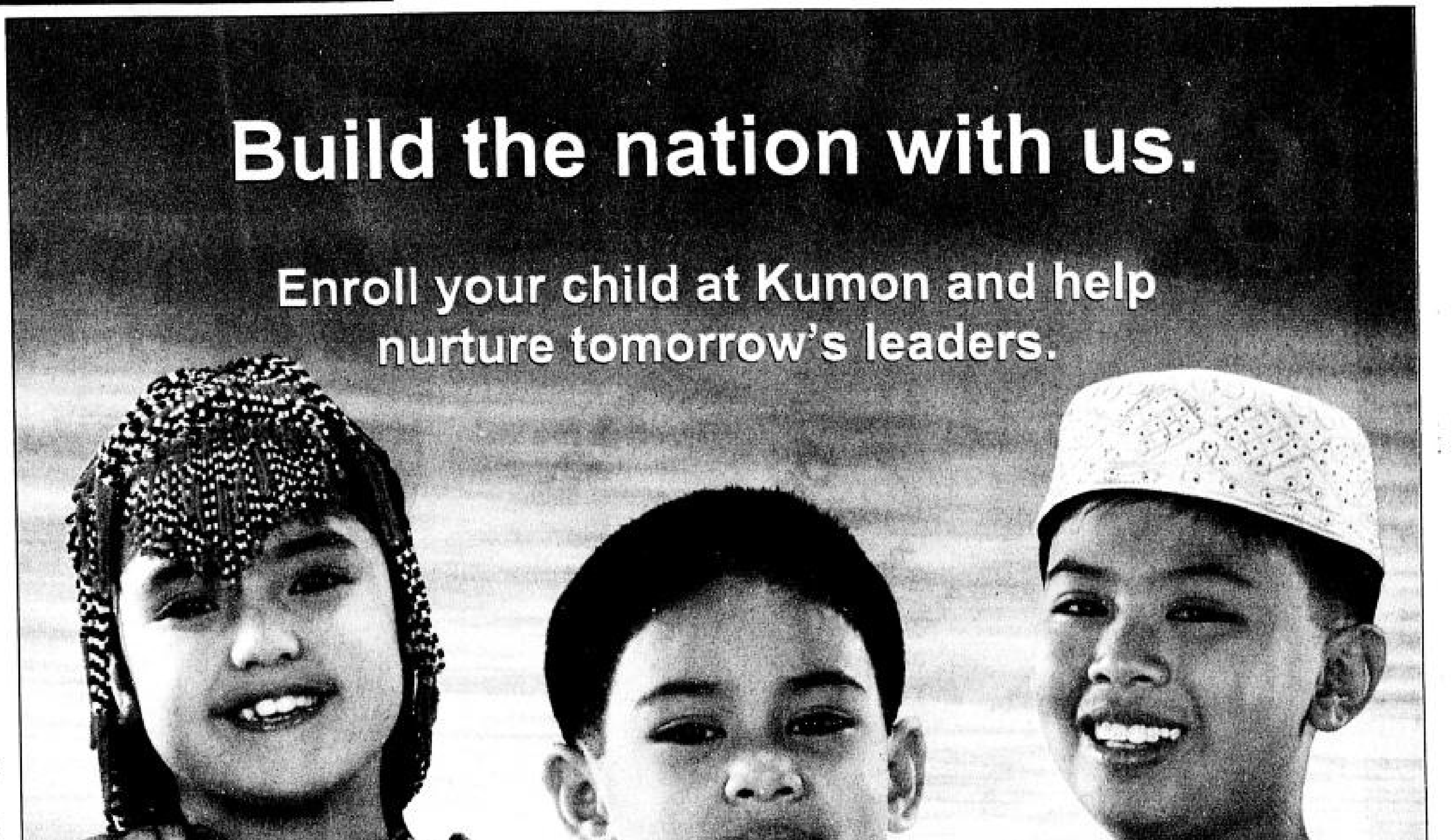

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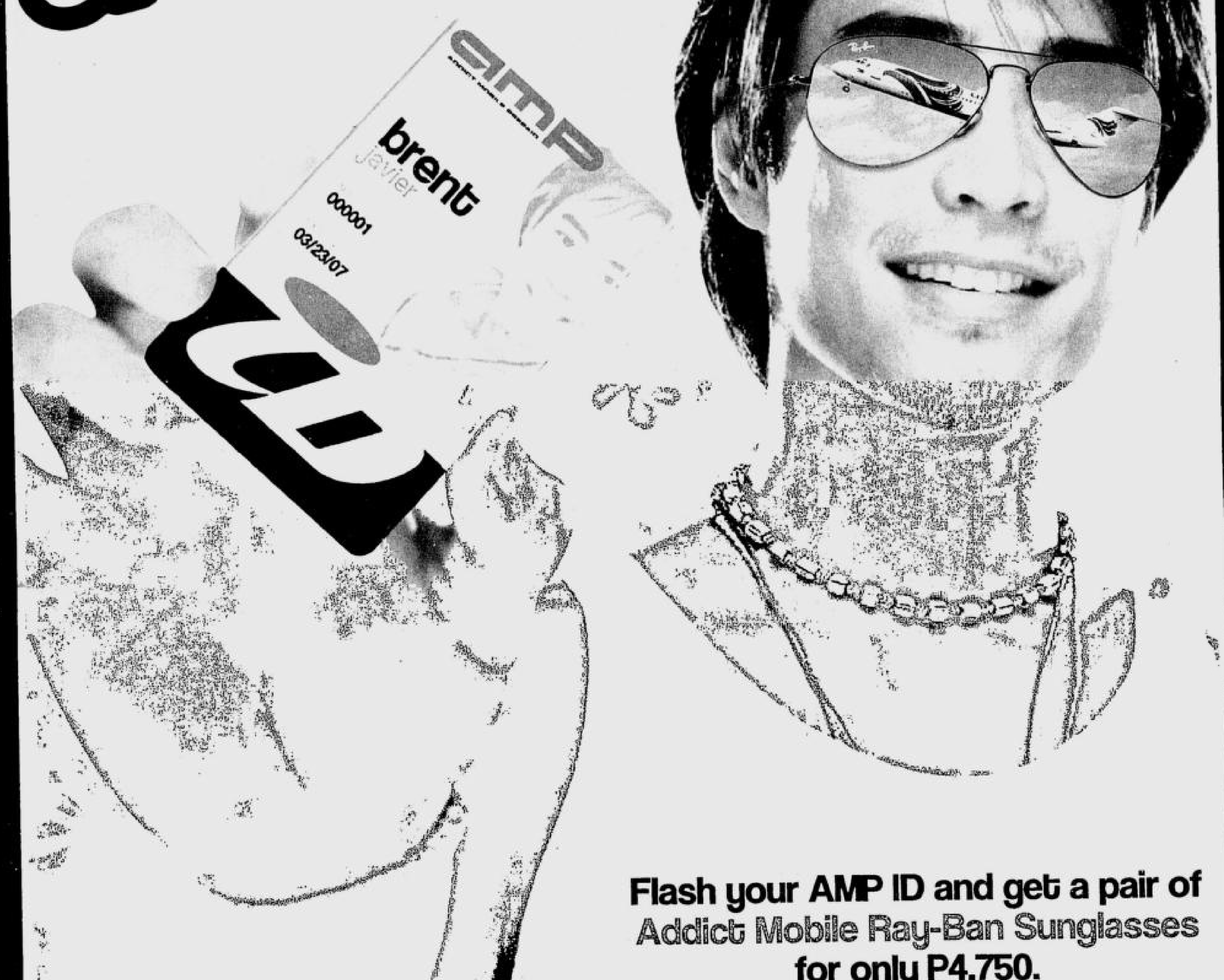

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The Antipolo Orchard

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

IN THE LATE '30s Elo's folks bought a 12-hectare Antipolo property for 10 centavos per square meter from a patient of theirs. The family had a nostalgic attachment to the mountain town because in those prewar days, when Hinulugang Taktak was still a working waterfall and Antipolo was a vacation resort, they would rent a house there and stay the whole of May.

They built a two-story house on it, and the rundown orchard became their weekend retreat. In those 30 years of weekending, there was more than enough room for two generations of children to run, enough mangoes and other fruits for them to eat, enough flowers to take home. The orchard had a horse named Estrella, two cows named Fracoise and Cocolette, a pair of fierce geese named Heloise and Abelard, and Kris, a perky, young carabao that the caretaker Angel hitched to a bamboo sled when taking produce to the wet market.

Sundays in Antipolo became a ritual as obligatory as Mass. The whole clan faithfully appeared. Aside from Papa F and Mama F (Dr. Tony Sr. and Dr. Felisa), there were their children, Dr. Tony Jr. (and his wife Dr. Neny), Dr. Nic (single), Atty. Elo and me, their grandchildren (whose number we increased every year), plus the Nicolas relatives of my mother-in-law (20 strong).

A gifted Home Economics teacher, Tia Pilar Andres cooked our lunches there—all the Cavite City dishes with their strange condiments that the family loved. Mama F's soups, also cooked there, were more cosmopolitan—*sopa de Gallego* (with meat, beans and bacon), or a *pochero* from which they fished out the beef, potatoes, *pechay* and *saba* bananas to cut up and dress, Spanish style, with olive oil and vinegar. Mama F had propriety rights over the bone marrow.

As soon as we got to Antipolo, my mother-in-law, Neny and I would settle down to play Scrabble. They were tough. I was always the loser. The two *doctoras* would struggle on, locked in grim and determined combat, until 1 p.m. On two tables on the porch, the rest would be playing a noisy, penny-ante mah-jong.

Promptly at one o'clock, the volleyball net would be put up in a cleared area near the coffee trees and the able-bodied would play—Tony Jr., Tio Nino, Tio Andres, Elo, Neny, Nic, Monching, Gabby, Pet, Boots, Poton and maybe a driver or two. That was a tough game, too.

Interesting places

There were interesting places on the property for the children to explore—several hillocks, a couple of bomb holes, a cave dug on the side of a hill that once served as a bomb shelter. (Antipolo was one of the places the Japs had retreated to when they were losing the war). On rainy days, sitting on pieces of plywood, the boys would slide down the slippery mud slope of the bomb hole, which was about the size of a swimming pool. Right into the brown water where sometimes Estrella, the carabao, was bathing.

The boys could not enter the cave which was full of snakes and centipedes. One day, a nephew, Poch, crawled in as far as he could, carrying some rags on which he poured kerosene. Then he stayed at the mouth of the cave and lit the end of the long, long fuse. It went whoosshh and burned off Poch's eyebrows and lashes.

Lunch was at 3 p.m. but nobody minded because of the endless procession of drinks and boiled peanuts. After lunch, each one went to a favorite spot to nap—the window ledge, which was wide enough to lie on, the benches of the picnic shed, the hammock or a big branch of the fallen mango tree. The Andres family had their own *siesta* territory, a wide bamboo *papag* under a *caimito* tree.

From Tia Nina, the botany teacher, Wendy learned to love plants. She taught Wendy how to identify seedlings—whether one would grow into a papaya, a *chico*, a *santol*, a mango, a *caimito*, a *rambutan* or a *narra* tree. In front of the house, Tia Nina had planted all sorts of flowers, including a trellis of the fabulous jade vine that flowered in summer. When the imported loofah body scrubber was introduced in stores, Wendy could identify it at once. Why, her own Tia Nina grew *patola*

THE ANTIPOLO/ H3

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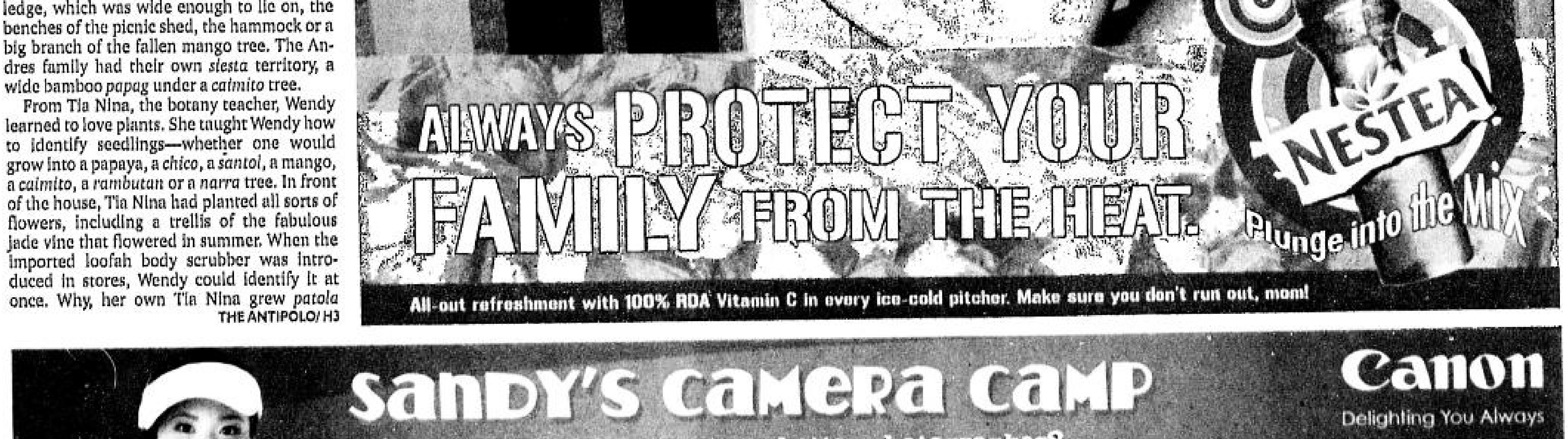

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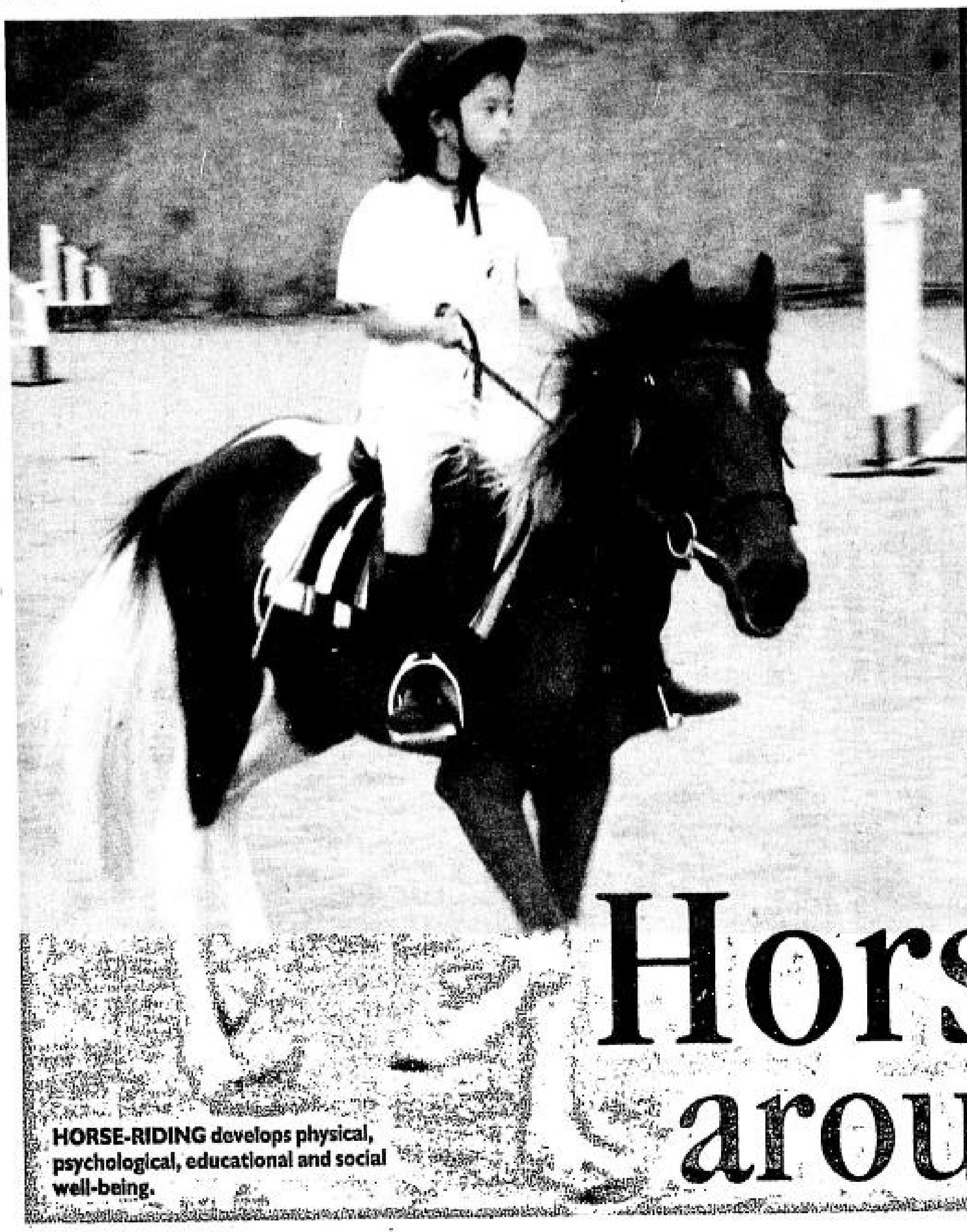

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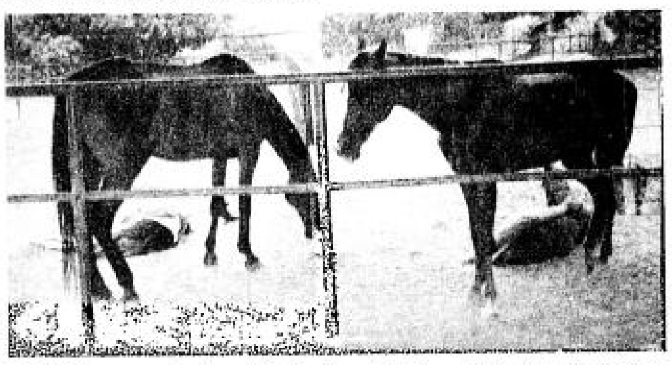


MORE horses are being added to the stable in anticipation of a higher enrolment turnout for summer.

Horsing around

The Antipolo Equestrian Center aims to nurture a love for equestrian sports without the prohibitive cost

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Roger Carpio

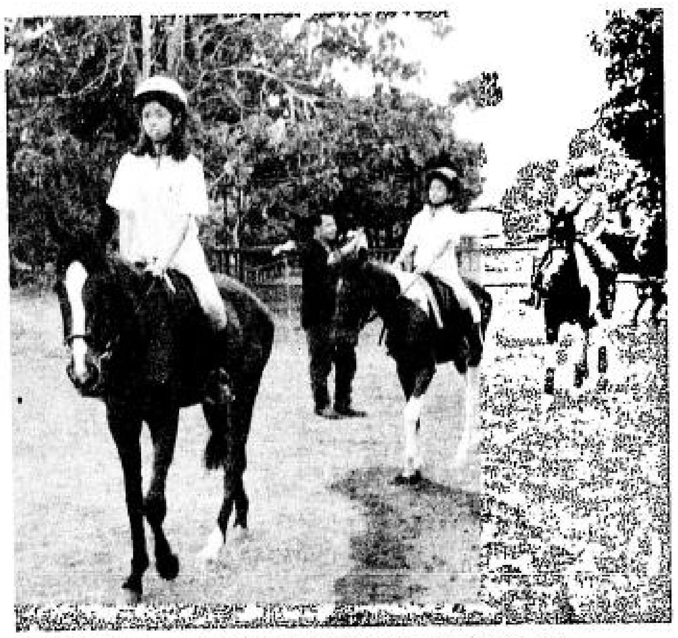
ANYONE can ride a horse. At this newly opened 130-hectare sprawl of an equestrian center, everyone—well-heeled or not—can be back in the saddle again, so to speak.

Aside from its reasonable rates, unique to this stable are leisurely trail rides through over 5,000 trees, gardens, natural waterfalls and man-made fish ponds, birds in the wild, flora and fauna and more.

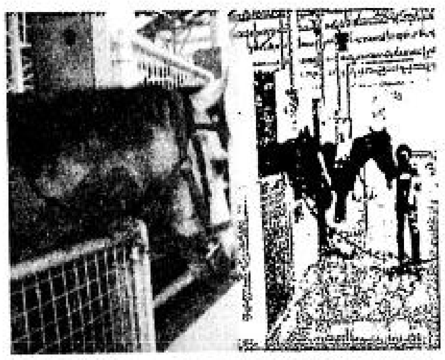
Private for the last 11 years, the Antipolo Equestrian Center (tel. 6714096) now aims to be one of the premier family destinations in the metropolis by offering the finer things in life with none of the elitist snobbery of costly membership fees and shares. There's not even an entrance fee for guests to speak of.

In the works are three botanical gardens with different themes, cottages/resorts for families with air-conditioned rooms, a camping ground, restaurant, aviary, firing range, spa, team-building and retreat areas, etc.

There's always something for every member of the family to do. Dad can fire away at the firing range, Junior can go fishing, Mom can get a massage at the spa and Ate can go horseback riding.



STUDENTS learn under the watchful eyes of an instructor.



STUDENTS can choose between horses and ponies, both trained for beginners.

Lifelong enthusiast

Located along Marcos Highway, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo, the center is manned by proprietor and visionary Manny Angeles, himself an enthusiast of the sport since, well, his toddler years.

Years ago, Angeles used to invite friends over to ride horses and spend the whole weekend relaxing. Eventually his nephews and nieces and children started showing interest in the sport, until one day he decided to open the place to the public.

"Everyone should able to experience the joy of riding a horse. This is my way of sharing the sport to everybody. Since it's very expensive to take lessons, they go to Tagaytay or Baguio where they would just hop on a horse with no formal lessons," Angeles says.

At the equestrian center, a group of five students can avail of a group package lesson with one instructor for a minimal fee of P600/hour. That's more than 50 percent less than what other equestrian centers offer. Private lessons only go as high as P800/hour, while semiprivate, or a two-student package, is only P700/hour.

MANNY Angeles with some of the Antipolo Equestrian Center's students. The center is just 14 km away from Pasig, and 25 km away from Makati.

Trail rides start for as low as P300/hour (without guide) or P400/hour (with guide). Kiddie pony rides with and without a guide are at P350 and P300/hour. A scenic view of Laguna de Bay as well as lush mountains and hills can be seen from the property.

Students can choose from more than 15 horses and ponies. All horses are trained for beginners so any level—beginner, intermediate, advance or show—can ride them. Helmets are available for rent, and proper attire, such as boots, is encouraged for better grip and traction, better balance and excellent leg protection. Need we say that it also looks good on the rider?

In the absence of boots, Angeles says shoes with heels are advised to prevent the foot from being caught in the stirrups and the possibility of being dragged by the horse in case the rider falls down.

Enrollment waiver

Yes, there are calculated risks in this sport. Students, in fact, are required to sign a waiver prior to enrollment. But Angeles does make sure the horses have good temperament and are properly trained. He personally test-rides each one of them before putting them in the school.

"A horse is an animal. Obviously, it can get spooked, rattled or frightened, and it reacts by either jumping, kicking, biting or running off," he says.

However, there are ways to minimize injury or prevent accidents. A common mistake made by scared students, for example, is to jump off a horse, when rules clearly stress one must try to stay astride the horse as much as possible.

Angeles says students will be taught how to properly approach a horse, how to mount and dismount, and other basics of horse handling and grooming before they will be ready to take that ride.

"Safety is always our priority, but like all sports there are risks involved. We make our students aware of those risks because as much as this is fun, it can also be dangerous," he says.

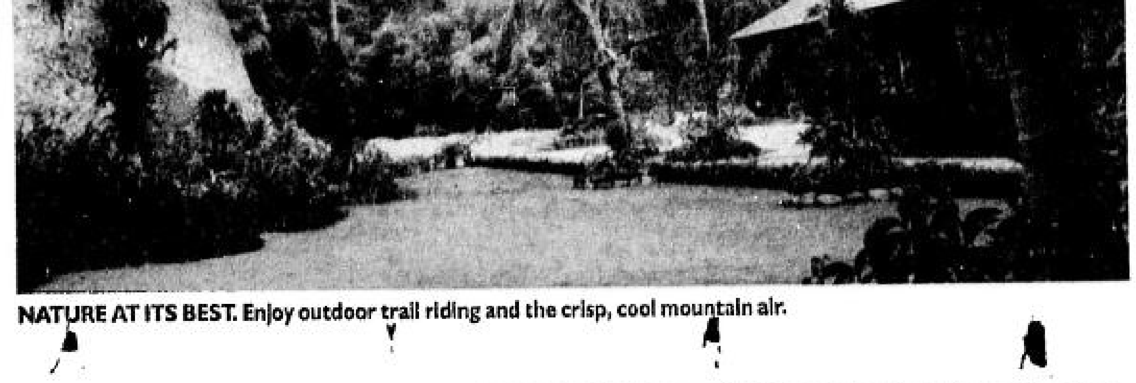
In case of emergency, the St. Ignacio's Hospital is a mere five minutes away from the center.

The grooming part is for students to create a bond with the horse and eventually learn to respect the animal. They will, after all, be working with the horse, on it and on the ground, for exercises. Thus, they will also be taught how to clean its hoofs, trim the hair and bathe the animal as well as lectures on horse parasites and their prevention, gestation period of mares, etc.

The center also wants to promote horse-riding as a therapy for children with Attention Deficit Disorder. The sport is a great way to develop a child's mind, says Angeles, since it demands utmost concentration from the rider. It improves self-confidence, increases interest in the outside world, develops patience, teaches how to control emotions, etc.

The Antipolo Equestrian Center is open every day, including holidays, from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. It also offers training for green horses, thoroughbreds and ex-racing horses, as well as facilities for horse board and lodging.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



NATURE AT ITS BEST. Enjoy outdoor trail riding and the crisp, cool mountain air.

THERE'S something for everyone in the family at the center.

The Antipolo Orchard

From page H1

plants, and always dried a few until all the flesh fell off. Then she'd cut the vegetable in the middle and give Wendy one-half. Loofah was the early Pinoy steel wool for washing kettles and plates. Only later was it marketed as an organic body scrubber.

In their straw hats, Nic and Wendy would take long walks on the hill-bringing back wild exotic flowers. Wendy knew when it was time to go home because Tia Nina would ask her and the other girls to start picking jasmines and *sampaguitas* to put in Mama F's handkerchief.

Kasuy wine

Most of the ripe *kasuy* fruits on the old trees just fell on the ground and rotted. One day my sister-in-law, Nic, decided to press the fruits and ferment the juice into wine. She had a crude tin and wood wine presser. Everyone helped turn the handle to squeeze whole *kaings* of *kasuy* in it. Nic drank the *kasuy* wine with her friends. (Dad thought it didn't taste very good.) One of those wine-pressing days, when the juice was merrily trickling down the spout into an almost filled barrel, a two-year-old nephew asked, "What's that?" And before anyone could answer, he had spat into it. I don't know what happened to that batch.

After the old folks passed away, (Papa F in 1970 and Mama F in 1975), everybody was busy with their own careers, and nobody picnicked in the orchard anymore. The children, Tony Jr., Nic and Elo, and their families decided to modernize the mango plantation because there seemed to be such a demand for export mangoes. Our son Mol was elected to be the orchard's manager. More and more mango seedlings were planted. More and more fertilizer went into the ground. More and more spraying was done to force the old trees to bloom. But it remained the cash-strapped mango orchard it always had been, whose niggardly produce could not even pay for the huge job of weeding 12 hectares of land and maintaining the barbed wire around it. (Squatters kept breaking in.) Perennial lack of water and reluctance to invest more capital finally did the mango orchard in. The families met and talked and argued about having a dream plantation, but no one ever put enough money where their mouth was.

Mol invested 10 years of his life trying to make a go of that farm but eventually folded his tents and went to work for Meralco. In the beginning, he used to be so optimistic. To augment the niggardly income of the farm he raised goats. First, native ones, stunted little animals, but one day, when he had saved enough money, Mol bought a large Nubian goat with majestic horns that curved up to the sky. He named it Knocker. He kept the native males fenced away from the females, allowing in only the magnificent stud. Mol had a notebook where he kept track of Knocker's progeny, and indeed the stock grew in heft and price. I remember us watching the cute baby goats get up on their tiny, unstable legs a few hours after being born. We would imitate the bleating of their mamas, and they'd be so confused. Once a few of the bigger baby goats went to the end of the property line and nibbled the garbage that some squatters had dumped there. They could not digest the plastic bags and died.

Open season

Harvest time was open season for petty thieves. We owned an ill-tempered German Shepherd named Boris whom Mol would periodically take to Antipolo. Once he spied a thief up in one of the fruiting trees. There were two empty sacks at the foot of the tree, intended for the mangoes he was stealing to sell. Mol tied the snarling Boris to the tree trunk and left him there. The man could not descend until sundown when Mol hauled him to the police precinct.

I remember watching my husband walking down a windy slope of the farm, golf cap on his graying hair, carrying a bag of seedlings and his scythe. He was my retired father-in-law all over again who used to come three times a week, futilely hacking away at weeds grown so hopelessly tall they hid the smaller trees. At the end of the day, dead tired and pleased with himself, Papa F would burn his enormous pile of weeds. They were great clearers of land, my father-in-law and Dad, but not such great farmers.

In the meantime the orchard had become the hub of other activities. Mol, now a rising employee of a corporation, had become very much interested in cooking. He had befriended a Thai cook with a drinking problem. Wit (short for a long, kilometric Thai name) would invite Mol to his small pad where he whipped up all sorts of hot, amazing dishes.

One Valentine's Day, Mol conceptualized a lunch with "flower food" as the theme. Wit knew, too, the Thai way of using flowers-as banana blossom salad, fried squid with *kutchay* flowers, *katuray* blossom salad, Chinese *pechay* with flowers. They decided to sell tickets for the meal. Lanelle, our oldest daughter-in-law, was a kind of cultural center of Antipolo so everybody bought. Gaily printed cloths hung on the trees to shield the cluster of dining tables from the sun. The menus were illustrated and hand-colored. The stoneware was handmade and of every color and design, not one of them the same. The whole place reeked with ambience.

In the bamboo house the long benches and the floor were lined with basins and basins of ingredients—mudfish, crabs, shrimps, clams, beef, pork, chicken, tofu, glass noodles, eggs, green mangoes, *kangkong*, *wansoy* and lots and lots of hot, burning chilis. Wit and Mol were planted in front of the roaring kerosene-fired stoves, triangular scarfs tied on their foreheads, pirate style. Beaming oldest son Bey acted as host. Thai food was not yet popular even in Manila then, but the captive guests just kept going back and forth for seconds and thirds of the delicious, strange, hot food.

In subsequent years, the third generation (our grandchildren) also held birthday parties in the orchard, impossible to recreate today. The young guests of Franco (now 18) rode the carabao sled all over the property, climbed for fruits, explored the caves and the bomb holes, had a barbecue picnic under the trees, and bathed under the pump before going home.

Burden

By 1997, however, the big property had become seedy and such a burden to keep. The family decided to sell it. Ten hectares went to a Chinese paper factory and two hectares were kept for Fernando couples Bey-Lanelle and Wendy-Roy to build their houses on. Mol probably couldn't take a day longer of Antipolo so when he married Lilli-Ann he opted to build in the Panay property. So did Arcus when he married his college sweetheart, Bing-Bing, and that's how we are all in our QC compound.

On their portion of Antipolo, Bey and Lanelle built a café because by then Bey was on dialysis and had given up his partnership in a law firm. He was just as enthused as Mol about cooking and the café became his new livelihood. His kids named it Crescent Moon. The bomb holes became carp pools. The trees blossomed with lights and hammocks. Lanelle transferred her pottery kiln and business beside the café and it was a good blend.

Every Sunday Bey and Mol cooked an inspired buffet from "whatever was fresh in the market." Some were their original recipes, the rest were Thai. Even on the stormiest day, the Sunday buffet lunches were packed, mostly with diners coming up all the way from Manila. People who dined in Crescent Moon thought it was an unforgettable experience and the restaurant became a media darling.

Wendy, by then an architect, and Roy, her engineer-contractor husband, also built their dream house on the land. A modular, one-story dwelling, it meandered on the property, avoiding the mango trees and making sure each window had a view of a tree. They planted a garden with herbs, exotic vines and everything that flowered. Eventually, beyond the trees planted by the old folk, a small bamboo house was constructed from the knocked-down original. Its unique bathroom had no walls, just vines to curtain it. Sometimes Roy and his three sons would put up a tent outdoors and sleep there so that he could teach them all about the stars.

And everybody lived happily ever after.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Sundays found our family in the mountain town. It was a ritual as obligatory as Mass

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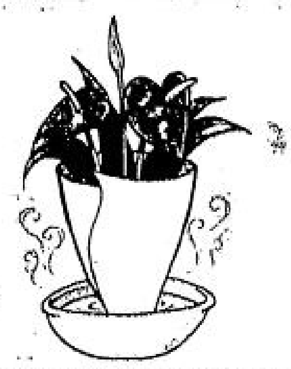

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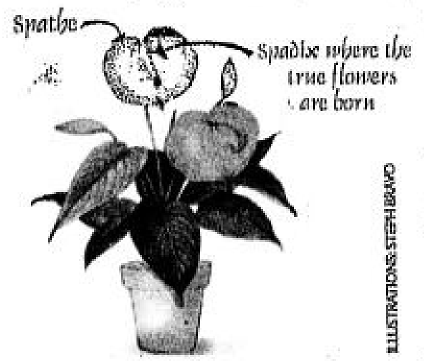
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ANTHURIUM PLANT

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Enjoy your flower arrangement longer

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

THE VASE life of cutflowers, stems and foliage in flower arrangements can be extended through some simple rules.

Here are some ways to enjoy fresh blooms longer:

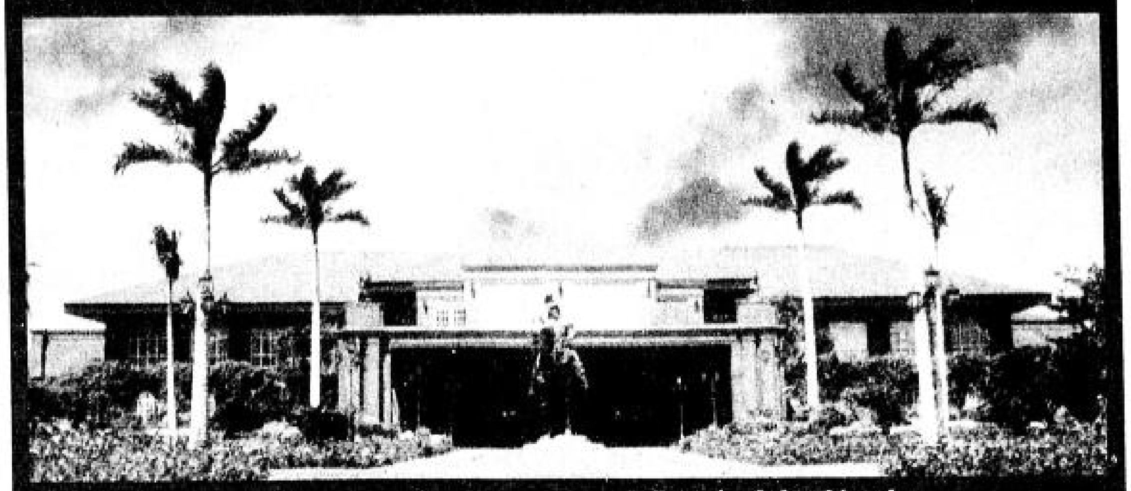
- Using a sharp knife or pair of scissors, cut cleanly and diagonally stems of flowers, twigs and leaves.
- Gather the materials for your floral arrangement in the evening or very early morning before the sun is up when transpiration (loss of moisture) is very low.

When picking the flowers and leaves, bring a half-filled pail of fresh clean water with a dilution of a cup of vinegar or sugar and soak the materials in the solution immediately after cutting. The vinegar helps water go up the stems while sugar has energy-giving elements.

- Different flowers have to be picked at different stages of maturity. For example, roses, carnations, chrysanthemums and straw flowers, among others, have to be gathered when still half open. White anthuriums have to be picked when their spathes are fully mature and ¾ of the true flowers found on the spadix have bloomed.
- Wrap flowers and foliage in either newspaper or wax paper and carry them upside down. As the theory goes, water seeks its own level.
- For hollow-stemmed plants, inject water into the stems using a syringe.
- Stems with milky sap can be passed over a flame so the sap will coagulate, preventing loss of moisture.
- Before arranging flowers in the vases, cut a portion of the basal stems under water in a bowl or basin to let water seep into stems.
- Wrap the bunch of flowers in a newspaper exposing the basal stems then give them a warm "bath" treatment to give plants that fresh feeling.
- Putting a dash of Vitamin B-1 (Hormex solution sold in plant shops) in the water will strengthen the flowers.
- Cut a portion of the stems every other day and change the water to keep away bacteria and prevent acidity that can cause wilting.
- Provide humidity by misting with fresh water the leaves and flowers at least twice a day.

GREEN TIPS

For more about plants and flowers and or flower arrangement, call 9394593.



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Two city parks make up a study in contrast

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

MEMBERS of the Winner Foundation, caretakers of the Arroceros Forest Park in the center of Manila, lament that now that the trees they planted nine years ago are beginning to grow, they may have to give way to a building on orders of City Hall.

Such a building, they say, has no place in a forest park, sparking a controversy.

Winner Foundation says it was given the caretaker's task for 15 years in accordance with an agreement with the previous city administration. Members of the organization say they are now on their ninth year of developing and conserving the park but it seems city officials can't wait six years before doing their own thing in it. So the controversy continues.

At a meeting held in Bel-Air, Makati recently, Winner spokespersons gave an update on the current state of affairs in the contested forest park. City hall told them the building soon to rise there would be for City Colleges teachers.

Winner members do not begrudge the teachers their own quarters, but they ask: Why in the forest park? "Right behind the park," said Regina Roces Paterno, Winner president, "there is a one-hectare lot occupied at present by some city government offices. Winner members saw this lot by accident when they looked over properties adjacent to the forest park."

She said, cleaned and spruced up, the area would be the ideal site for a building for teachers.

And the trees could be left to grow. Of course, city hall has informed Winner people that it does not intend to touch the trees in the park, but how this can be done may be problematic considering the park is full of trees.

Among the speakers that day was artist Araceli L. Dans who touched on the value of the forest park not only in providing a much-needed green spot in the city, but as a place where artists could seek self-expression.

School isn't just building

Another speaker, Gay Tayag, vice president of the Central Institute of Technology and president of Quiz Bee International, reminded everyone that schools were not just buildings with four walls. They could exist in the open air without enclosures, especially desirable when lessons were about nature and its worth.

And then there was lawyer Ipat Luna of Tanggol Kalikasan, legal consultant to the Winner group. Her appeal: "Winner Foundation has given us in Arroceros Forest Park a foretaste of things to come if we do not heed nature's warnings. It's a young forest, coaxed from rubble and only beginning to thrive. It would be a different forest park if allowed to flourish, if the bats and birds in it would be allowed to replant it with their droppings, if the forest saplings would be allowed to reach their full potential.

"We would be seeing trees not planted by human hands but nurtured by nature. This is the education we seek, letting nature teach us how to relate to her right in the heart of the city."

So, the question crops up: Who really will benefit from a forest park in the city—a few professionals, important though they may be, or citizens in general who need to energize and recover from the confining concrete and traffic confusion they must face in the city every day?

Naawan bags

As a study in contrast, there is in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, another group, the Budyong Rural Development Foundation Inc. (BRDFI), that may not maintain a forest park, but utilizes the resources of another park for community benefits. This is the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, now a Natural World Heritage Site where grows the *artocarpus communis* tree, *antipolo* to locals, especially the Batak tribe.

The BRDFI was founded in 1989 by Christian missionaries wishing to help tribal folk find self-reliance as well as spiritual values. It now maintains an office in Puerto Princesa City (Room 9, Garcillano Complex, Rizal Ave.) where tribes people and other citizens go to deliver orders or show their handiwork for marketing.

These may be sculptured art, beads and other decorative accessories. Among the most beautiful items are handbags made from the bark of the *antipolo* tree. The bags come in different sizes, shapes and are intended for different purposes. There are shoulder bags, clutch bags, wallets, coin purses, eyeglass and mobile phone pouches—a total of about 50 designs. They come in natural reddish brown given a touch of chic by black piping. The bark of the *antipolo* is soft ,and bags made from it are easy to carry around.

Projects such as this indicates that, when undertaken with respect for nature and a spiritual outlook, they become successful—a lesson for us all.

This BRDFI project is supported by the United Nations Development Program, Global Environment Facility and the Royal Netherlands Embassy as well as local organizations.

E-mail writer at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

Part-time model afraid to come out of the closet

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

I am 18 years old and a part-time model. Recently, I was watching Oprah Winfrey's feature about fear of "coming out of the closet," and I knew that was also about me. I'm bisexual and no one in my family or among my friends knows about it. I first realized my attraction to girls in my freshman year.

All those years I thought homosexuality was hereditary. But I was forced to acknowledge it because of my attraction to my best girlfriend who was 100-percent heterosexual. I'm afraid to come out because I don't want to be ostracized by friends and family.

Just thinking about it makes me want to run for cover. My parents are both church leaders. My friends won't stop asking me about my sexuality, and men suitors are itching to hook up with me. I'm fed up with lying.

Now I am seeing someone who is also a model. The difference between her and me is she is already "out" with her family. My family and friends have met her, and they think she's just a special friend from the runway.

Is what I am feeling wrong? Will I ever be accepted rather than despised?

JANE

I am not one to judge anybody's "sexuality." Being an environmentalist, I see "heteros" and "homos" in nature constantly. There's nothing we humans are doing that is not already being done in the wild. That's a fact.

You may tell your parents about you when you are ready, not before. Just go with the flow of your emotions, and be true to them. It's a no-brainer that people will realize what you are when they see you don't date men at all. They'll catch on.

In this day and age, that's no big deal anymore. With all the problems in the world, do you think your friends will go home and knock their heads on the wall bewailing your sexuality? They may say "hmmmm..." and throw questioning glances your way but, other than that, this will remain a "to each his own" world.

'I'm bisexual and no one in my family or among my friends know'

Don't worry about what people will say. Worry about yourself and finding that one true love that will last a long time. What you do in private is none of their business!

Regretful

I've been married 20 years to my one and only boyfriend—but not my first love. My first love was my crush in Grade 6. He courted me on and off over the years and, though I was very much in love with him, I never gave him a chance. I had this feeling that he only courted me because he knew I was in love with him.

I'd hear once in a while that he would ask about me. Then last year, he surprised me with a call to my cell phone. Everything that I felt for him came rushing back. On Valentine's Day, he even called me from overseas just to tell me that he would never forget me, "*baligtarin mo man ang mundo!*"

I felt a tinge of regret about not giving him a chance to prove himself to me. Please don't misinterpret me. I love my husband and family so much that I can't live without them. I'm pretty sure I am happily married, though we're not financially stable.

It's just that I feel I have to tell my first love how much he was loved by someone—me—once upon a time. It's not love anymore that I feel, and it may not be even be important to him to know all that—but I want to lessen the baggage I've carried all these years.

I am afraid though that he might misunderstand my intentions if I tell him that. Will I be unfaithful to my husband if I do so?

SENTIMENTAL LADY

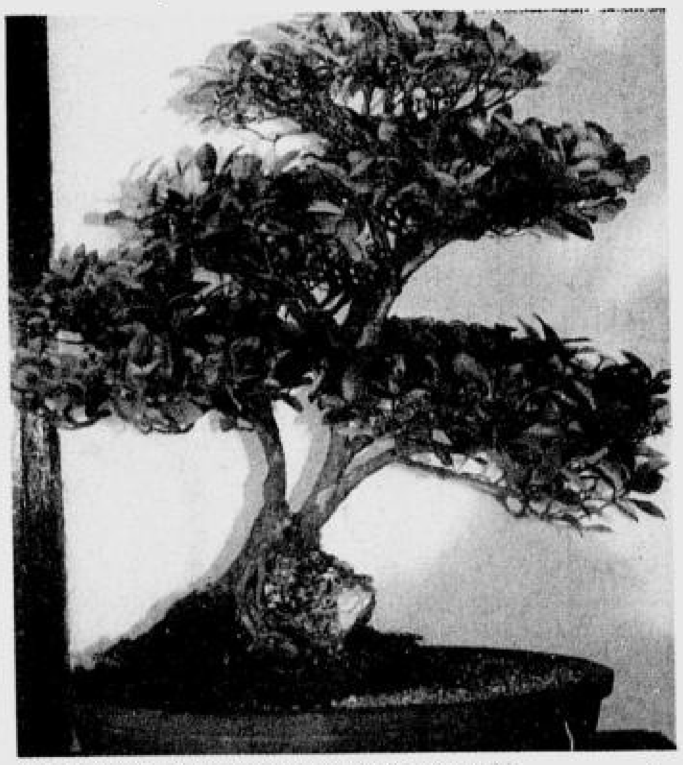
What woman wouldn't be thrilled at the cooing of an old adored love telling her once again that he will never forget her?

But these are just words and, however romantic and lovely they sound to our ears, words are nothing but air. They come, they go, they disappear. Unless he pursues you seriously and relentlessly this time—but that's another story.

You might have loved him dearly, no doubt, but that little inner voice in your heart told you otherwise, and made you choose your husband instead. There was something about him that made you stop in your tracks and decide not to give him a chance. Despite your excitement now, be aware that this old love could be a dead star.

A dead star appears blindingly bright from afar—but it is dead at the source. Talk to him if you want, flirt with him if you care to, and relish the excitement of your youth once more. But try not to rock your marriage unnecessarily. There might be too great a price to pay later—and for what, just being sentimental?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



A TWIN trunk wild santan bonsai about 20 years old

Learn how to make bonsai, mini waterfall this summer

MAKE your summer more worthwhile by learning how to create your own bonsai and mini waterfall Zen garden.

Ikebana professor and plant art expert Serapion S. Metilla is conducting courses on bonsai (1-6 p.m., May 6-7) and mini waterfall (8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., May 21-22) at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Bonsai, an ancient art of gardening that originated in China, has gained popularity for its therapeutic values and for helping relieve tension and normalize blood pressure.

The topics to be covered include identification of plants, tools, accessories and other materials, shaping, wiring, styling, potting, repotting, propagation and care and maintenance. All materials will be provided for the hands-on session on the first day. A minimum fee will be charged for materials, snacks, handouts and certificate.

The mini waterfall zen garden is designed for meditation and tranquility. The hands-on session includes the making of a catch basin, construction of waterfall, planting on rocks and care and maintenance. All materials will be provided. Participants will also be given four snacks, two lunches, handouts and certificate.

Register with Liza or Melba at Mett's Plant Arts, Flower Mart, Seedling Bank, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Call 939-4593 or 435-2479.

Mother's Day garden show May 6–8

IKEBANA professor and Plant Art expert Serapion S. Metilla is putting up a one-man flower and garden show to celebrate Mother's Day May 6-8 at the Star Mall activity center in Mandaluyong City.

The show, held in cooperation with Star Mall, is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Admission is free.

To be featured are some bonsai pieces, mini waterfall zen gardens, tray landscapes, terrariums, dishgardens, flower arrangements and other plant arts. Some potted ornamental plants, assorted herbs (both culinary and medicinal), pots and vases, organic fertilizers and other materials needed for the garden will also be offered.

Free lecture-demonstrations on tray landscaping and flower arrangements will be conducted 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8, respectively. Call Sarah Esquires at 7244992.

Feng shui expert makes Gloria Diaz's home luckier

FORMER Ms. Universe Gloria Diaz, movie-television actress and mother of three, harnessed the feng shui harmony and energies of her home with the help of expert Marites Allen.

The chief executive officer of the World of Feng Shui (Ground Floor, The Podium Mall, Ortigas Center, tel 9147112), Allen started with an analysis of the place, beginning from the outside.

Among other things, she found that the house was ruled by the element of wood. To strengthen house luck, she suggested the colors green and brown, symbolic of wood and water energy, or natural wood finishes.

Red colors, she said, should be avoided for interior finishes, as they suggested fire energy that could weaken the house's luck and drain resources away. In general, the house had a favorable color scheme, though the color of some doors had to be changed.

Allen strongly recommended that the house's main door be moved towards the center to avoid any potential loss of wealth. The relocated door is now fronted by a Zen garden and mini waterfall.

The interior of the house was analyzed using different Feng Shui formulas, such as 8 Mansions and Flying Stars. Many simple, easy-to-accomplish improvements were made as a result, such as relocating an aquarium from a westerly location to where it could better enhance money luck, removing mirrors from bedrooms to strengthen family relationships and relocating trophies, photographs and famous mementos to the south sector.

Several key enhancers were been carefully placed in the house to complement the other improvements. They included a pair of Fu Dogs and metal rhinoceros to protect against intruders, crystals to enhance money luck, tribute horse, framed picture of 100 birds, rotating crystal lotus and a variety of lava lamps.

As Diaz also believes in personal amulets, Allen gave her a bracelet from Tibet, the powerful "nine-eyed Dzi". With this, Diaz is said to collect nine types of merits that help purify negative karma and dissolve obstacles and blocks to success. The dzi is best suited to those born under the Rabbit, Dragon and Snake signs.

MARITES Allen (left), a feng shui expert, and Gloria Diaz

Improve your English with computerized program

THE NEW Manila Times Language Institute is using the English Computerized Learning Program to teach Filipinos to speak like an American in at least three months.

The institute aims to help increase the chances of graduates finding employment by improving their command of the English language. It has been pointed out that today's students, except those who come from exclusive private school, lack competence in speaking and writing in English.

With call centers being a major source of local employment, the need for making Filipinos more proficient in English has increased. Latest government figures show that there are now more then 73 call centers in the Philippines employing 30,000 workers. The number of call centers is expected to rise to 140 by the end of the year with a total employment of 40,000.

Over 300,000 Filipinos are expected to be employed in local call centers by 2009, according to Senator Mar Roxas.

Using the revolutionary program from North America, the Manila Times Language Institute, in special cases, is inviting professionals and students to learn to speak American English in a short time.

The English Computerized Learning Program enables students to gain self-confidence and increases the chances of their finding employment.

The program has been in use for nine years to help Hispanics in the US West Coast be more proficient in English. It is included in the curricula of over 4,000 schools in North America.

Call 301-9551 or 638-2172/73.

NATIVIDAD "Naty" Santos and family: Francis, Froilan, Theresa, Naty, Dino, Jacq and Marie

(SEATED) Dindin and Jovy Araneta, Ruth and Teddy Casiño, Sandra Palomar, Trek Valdizno; Zenayda Celdran, Francis Manalo-Santos, Alvin Villaruel, the celebrator, Henri Ortiz and Nicolas Quan

RAFAELLA, Mars and Roseanne Chua, Doctors Gregorie and Georgina Pastorfide

Luau for a much-loved mom

CONFETTI shower for a much-loved mom

IN THEIR well-appointed Formoso-designed home in Dasmariñas Village very recently, the Santos children—Francis, Froilan, Frederick, Theresa, Ferdinand and the bubbly Marie—treated their much-loved mom, Natividad "Naty" Manalo-Santos, to an all-night dancing birthday luau.

Friends and family were greeted at the foyer with *kalachuchi* leis and sampaguita garlands. The guests were treated to '60s, '70s and '80s music provided by three bands that played till sunrise.

Everyone dined on excellent Northern Luzon cuisine, with champagne and wine flowing all night. Overwhelmed by the number of guests who came to wish her well and the party's energetic vibe, Naty declared, "The next time you kids decide to do this, I'm leaving the country!"

Was that a threat or a ploy?

KAREN Joven, Benedict and William Chan, Lloyd Joven, Adelina Cuesta, Natividad, Jobet Reyes, Tess Santos, Lydia Angeles and Priscila Andres

TATA Poblador

RUSTY Lopez

MARILEN Tantoco

THE KAZ Band performs

AURORA Pijuan, Marie Santos, Mel Meer, Diana Jean Lopez and Froilan Santos (standing)

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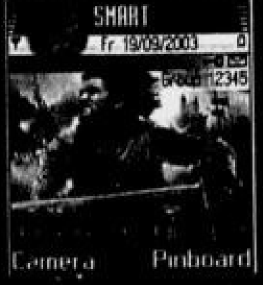

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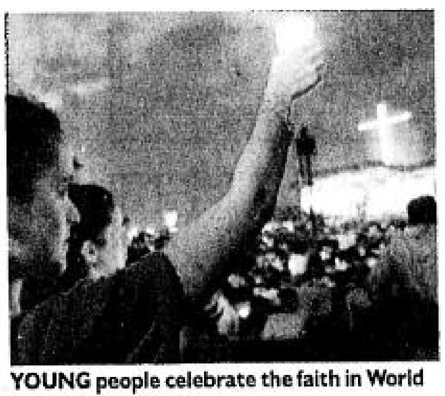
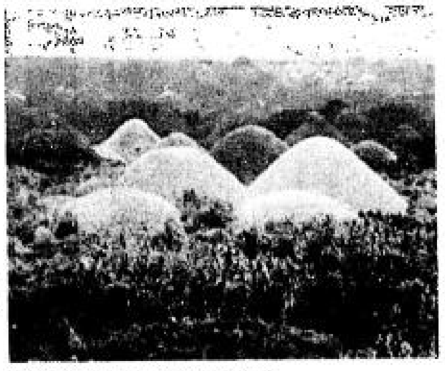
Wanna tour the Philippines the Pope John Paul II way?

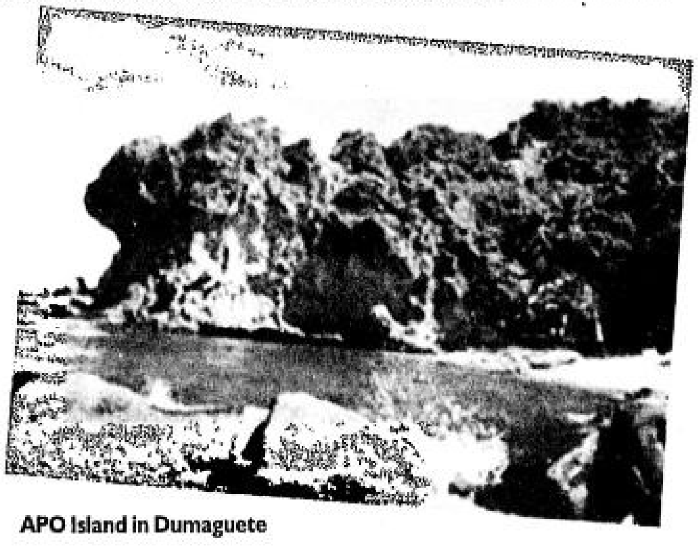
By Nicolo F. Bernardo
Contributor

A unique domestic travel program combines sites, adventure, culture and faith

THE LATE Pope during the last World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada


YOUNG people celebrate the faith in World Youth Day in Toronto.


CHOCOLATE Hills in Bohol


APO Island in Dumaguete

ADVENTURE. Sports. Partying. These are what mark the youth of today. Their zest for fun is something even the late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, embraced.

John Paul the Great was always young-at-heart, a sportsman and nature lover. He would certainly be remembered for his novel World Youth Days. But now that the "party-thrower" is gone, is the celebration over?

Young Filipinos are saying no. Youngsters who attended John Paul II's 1995 visit to the Philippines are now young professionals ready to take on the challenge to tell the world of His love. And they will tell it the way John Paul did.

LinkAP, or Lingkod ng Kabataan Alay sa Panginoon, is taking the cross and going on a cruise.

From April to August, LinkAP is organizing countryside tours for young people in preparation for the 20th World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany.

Participants would go around the country to encounter God in different cultures and nature spots.

Partnering with the Sacred Heart Institute for Transformative Education Foundation Inc. and Airborne 7 Travel, the LinkAP tour would include sports festivals, band concerts, cultural nights, and of course, Holy Masses.

There will be three cruises all in all. The first is on May 19-23 from Manila to Dumaguete, Bohol and Cebu, followed by the May 29-June 2 cruise from Manila to Davao. The third trip will be early June, from Manila to Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Guimaras.

The activities are very "John Paulian"—swimming, nature-tripping and hiking, with every cruise starting and ending with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Exciting

The first cruise is very exciting. Participants will go to Apo Island, Dumaguete, with its fantastic dive sites and resorts, then hop to Masaplod, a marine sanctuary for huge snappers, sweetlips, stingrays, sea turtles, and oh! rare scorpions. They aren't scary, and you can always bring your mama along.

DIVING in Apo Island

Next stop is Loboc, Bohol, where inhabits the tarsier, the smallest primate in the world. Then off to the man-made forest in Bilar, with its awesome display of mahogany trees painstakingly planted by the local people. (Now who says more people are a threat to the environment?)

And if you feel like a Swan Princess (or Prince), feel at home in the Loay River Cruise with its wild ducks gliding around a majestic panorama of nipa palms. From there you get a mountain ticket to Chocolate Hills to feast your eyes on the 1,268 haycock hills turning brown this summer.

Afterwards, you can pray in the ancient Baclayon Church, then take a deep breath, dive, swim and snorkel in Pamilacan Island. Just be sure to bring your cameras for the whale and dolphin watching. If you're afraid of these sea creatures, pray to John Paul II. He would surely tell you, "Be not afraid!"

Finally, visit the Basilica Minore de Sto. Niño and Magellan's Cross in Cebu, the birthplace of Christianity in the country, before the farewell night party. All these just for the first cruise!

Proceeds to charities

Now what's more, LinkAP would offer other programs for those who may not be able to join the countryside tours but are willing to live the free spirit of the late Pope.

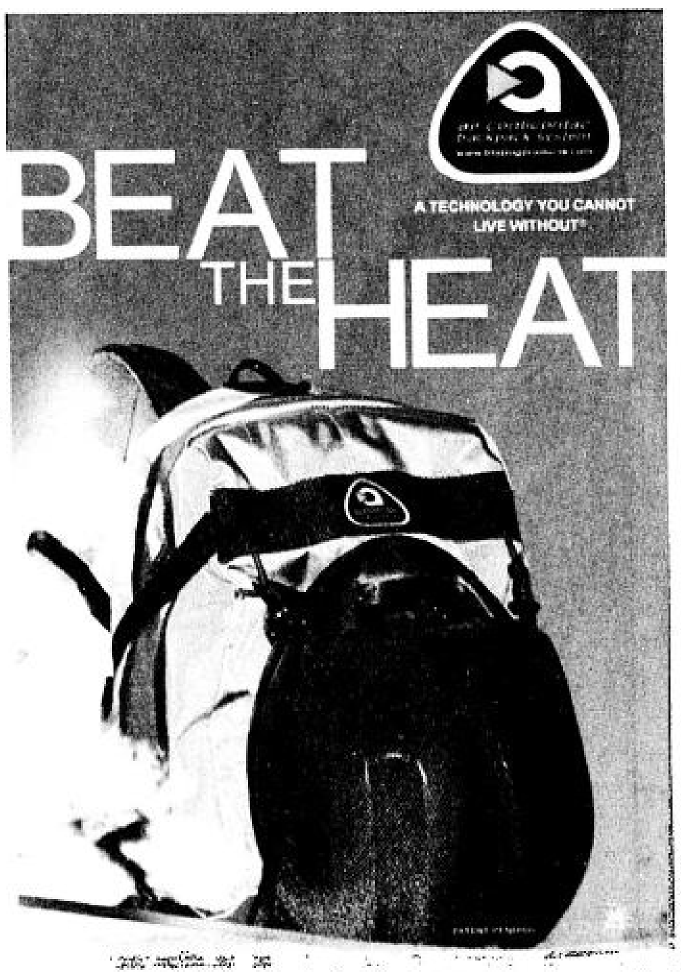
There will be acoustic nights at Café Lupe on all Fridays of May and and June. A major concert in Aliw Theater will be held on July 9 and anyone found worthy would get a free sponsorship to the World Youth Day in Cologne in August.

Sounds bacchanalian? No. LinkAP is a non-government youth ministry organization and is not one to go for hype. It provides educational support for youngsters called to the religious life, income-generating projects for the youth, exchange programs and scholarships, and value formation seminars. Proceeds from the tours will go to these endeavors as well as for the construction of a pre-school in Catarman, Samar.

Proceeds will also go to the Pag-Asa ng Kandila program for reformed prisoners and their children.

LinkAP heeds the late Holy Father's call to one's fellowman a new lease in life by no less than celebrating life and helping others.

If you're interested to join or make arrangements for the LinkAP pre-World Youth Day tours and activities, call 7519860/09167254293, or visit www.freewebs.com/wyd2005linkap



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RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

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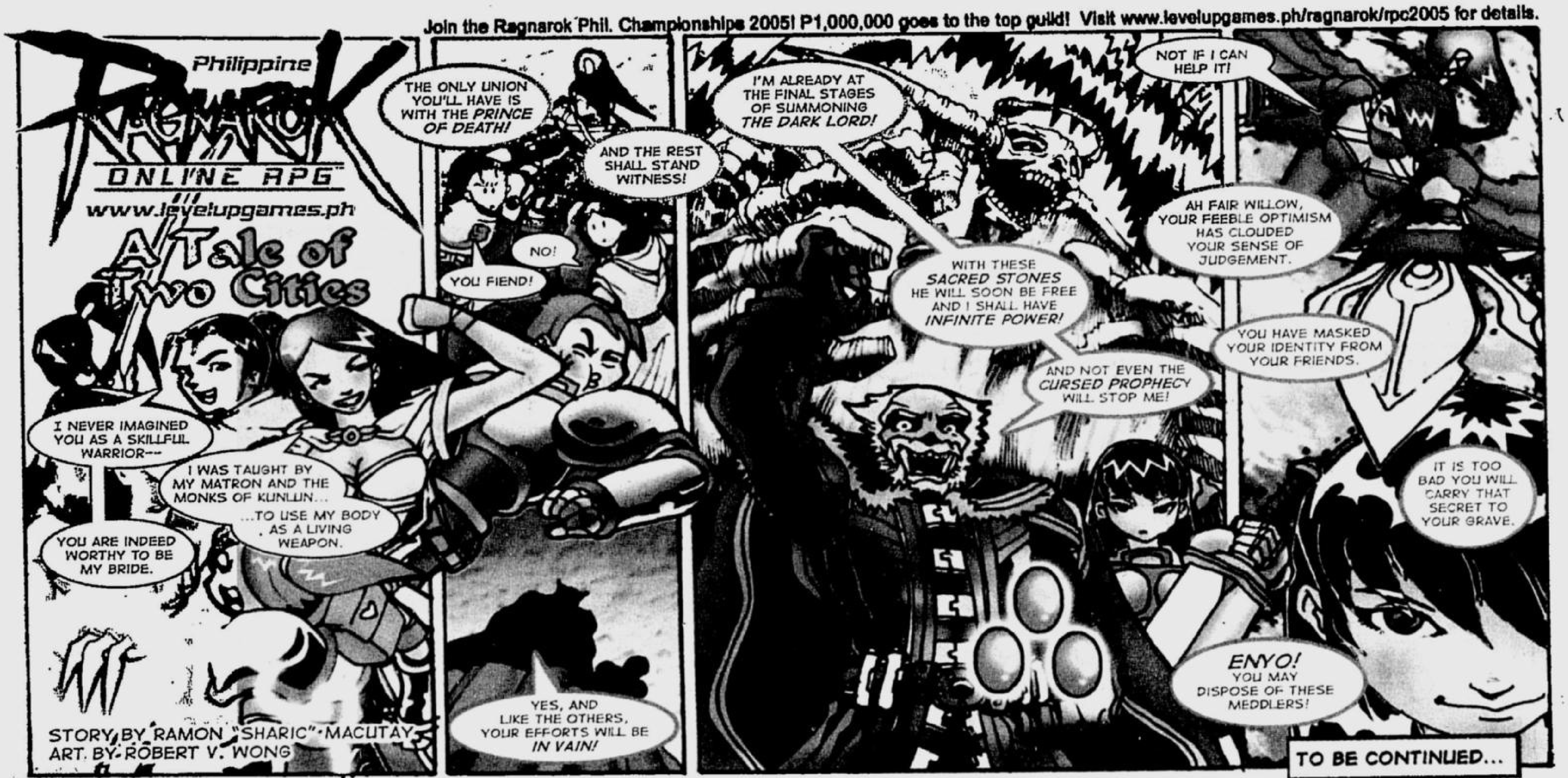
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...TO USE MY BODY AS A LIVING WEAPON.
YOU ARE INDEED WORTHY TO BE MY BRIDE.
STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART. BY ROBERT V. WONG
THE ONLY UNION YOU'LL HAVE IS WITH THE *PRINCE OF DEATH!*
AND THE REST SHALL STAND WITNESS!
NO!
YOU FIEND!
YES, AND LIKE THE OTHERS, YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE *IN VAIN!*
I'M ALREADY AT THE FINAL STAGES OF SUMMONING *THE DARK LORD!*
WITH THESE *SACRED STONES* HE WILL SOON BE FREE AND I SHALL HAVE *INFINITE POWER!*
AND NOT EVEN THE *CURSED PROPHECY* WILL STOP ME!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
AH FAIR WILLOW, YOUR FEEBLE OPTIMISM HAS CLOUDED YOUR SENSE OF JUDGEMENT.
YOU HAVE MASKED YOUR IDENTITY FROM YOUR FRIENDS.
IT IS TOO BAD YOU WILL CARRY THAT SECRET TO YOUR GRAVE.
ENYO! YOU MAY DISPOSE OF THESE MEDDLERS!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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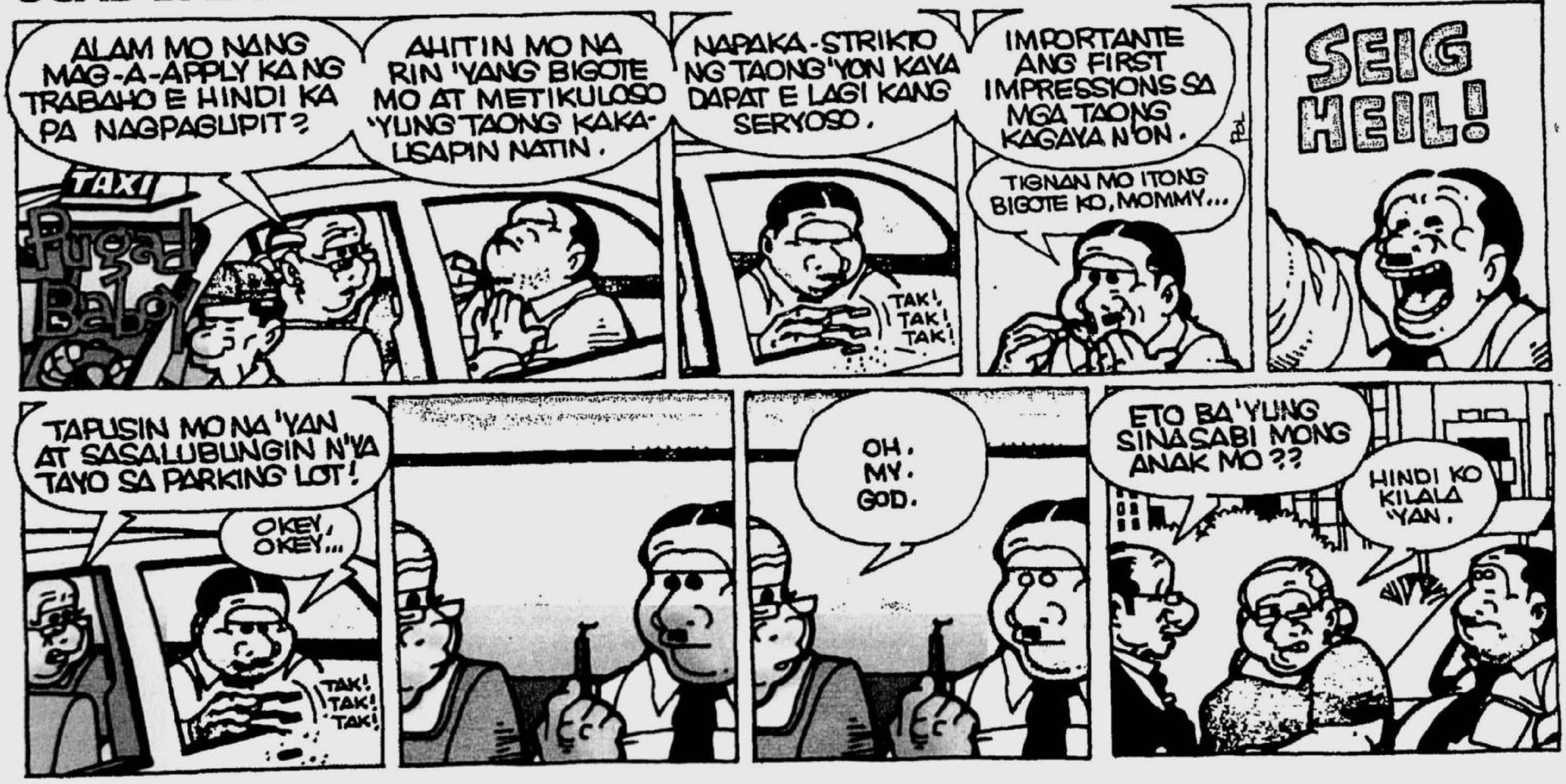
PUGAD BABOY

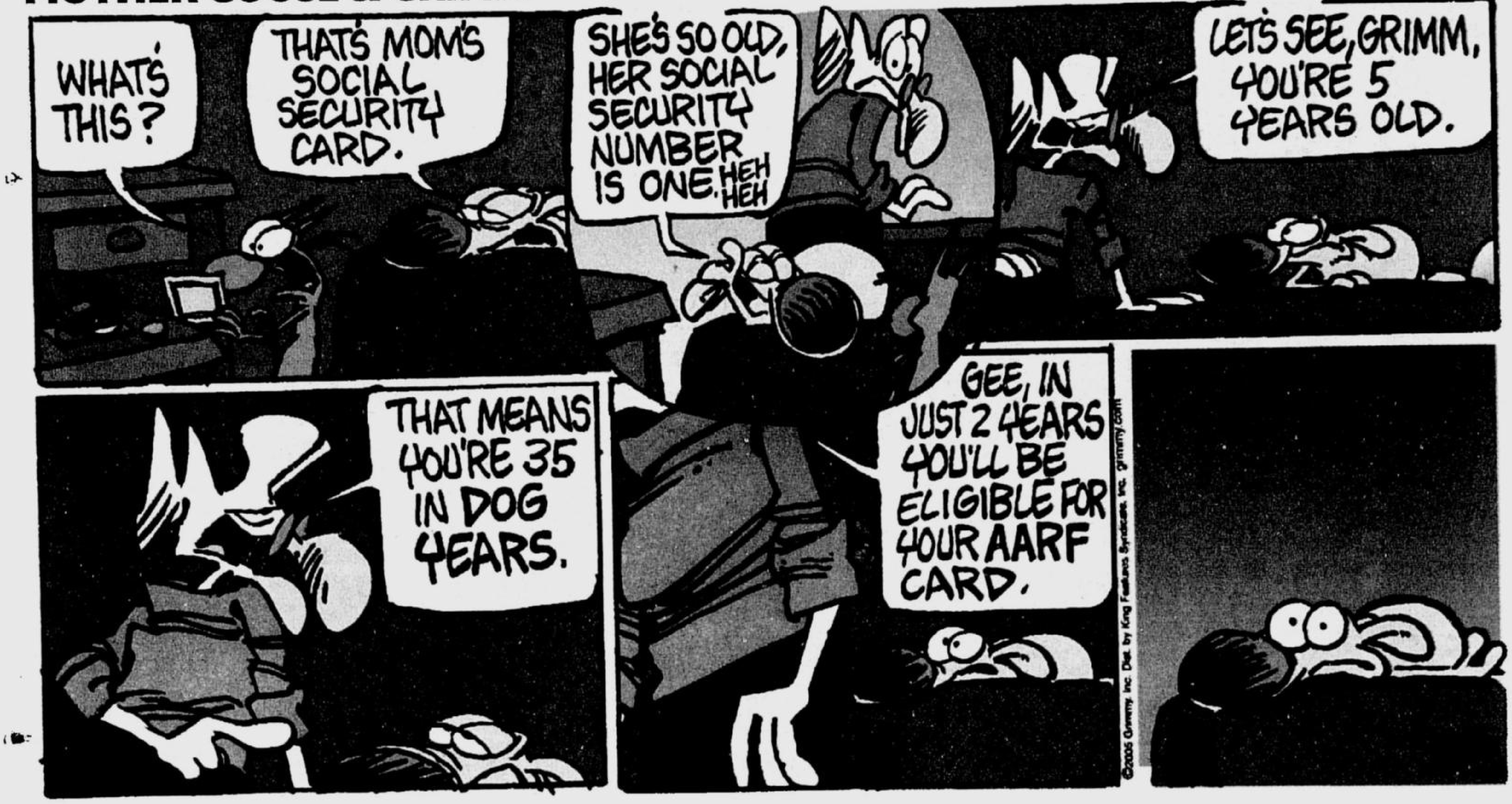
BY POL MEDINA JR.


ALAM MO NANG MAG-A-APPLY KA NG TRABAHO E HINDI KA PA NAGPAGUPIT?
AHITIN MO NA RIN 'YANG BIGOTE MO AT METIKULOSO 'YUNG TAONG KAKAUSAPIN NATIN.
TAXI
Pugad Baboy
NAPAKA-STRIKTO NG TAONG 'YON KAYA DAPAT E LAGI KANG SERYOSO.
TAK! TAK! TAK!
IMPORTANTE ANG FIRST IMPRESSIONS SA MGA TAONG KAGAYA N'ON.
TIGNAN MO ITONG BIGOTE KO, MOMMY...
Pol
SEIG HEIL!
TAPUSIN MO NA 'YAN AT SASALUBUNGIN N'YA TAYO SA PARKING LOT!
OKEY, OKEY...
TAK! TAK! TAK!
OH. MY. GOD.
ETO BA 'YUNG SINASABI MONG ANAK MO??
HINDI KO KILALA 'YAN.

C. FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S MOM'S SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.
SHE'S SO OLD, HER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS ONE. HEH HEH
LET'S SEE, GRIMM, YOU'RE 5 YEARS OLD.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE 35 IN DOG YEARS.
GEE, IN JUST 2 YEARS YOU'LL BE ELIGIBLE FOR YOUR AARF CARD.

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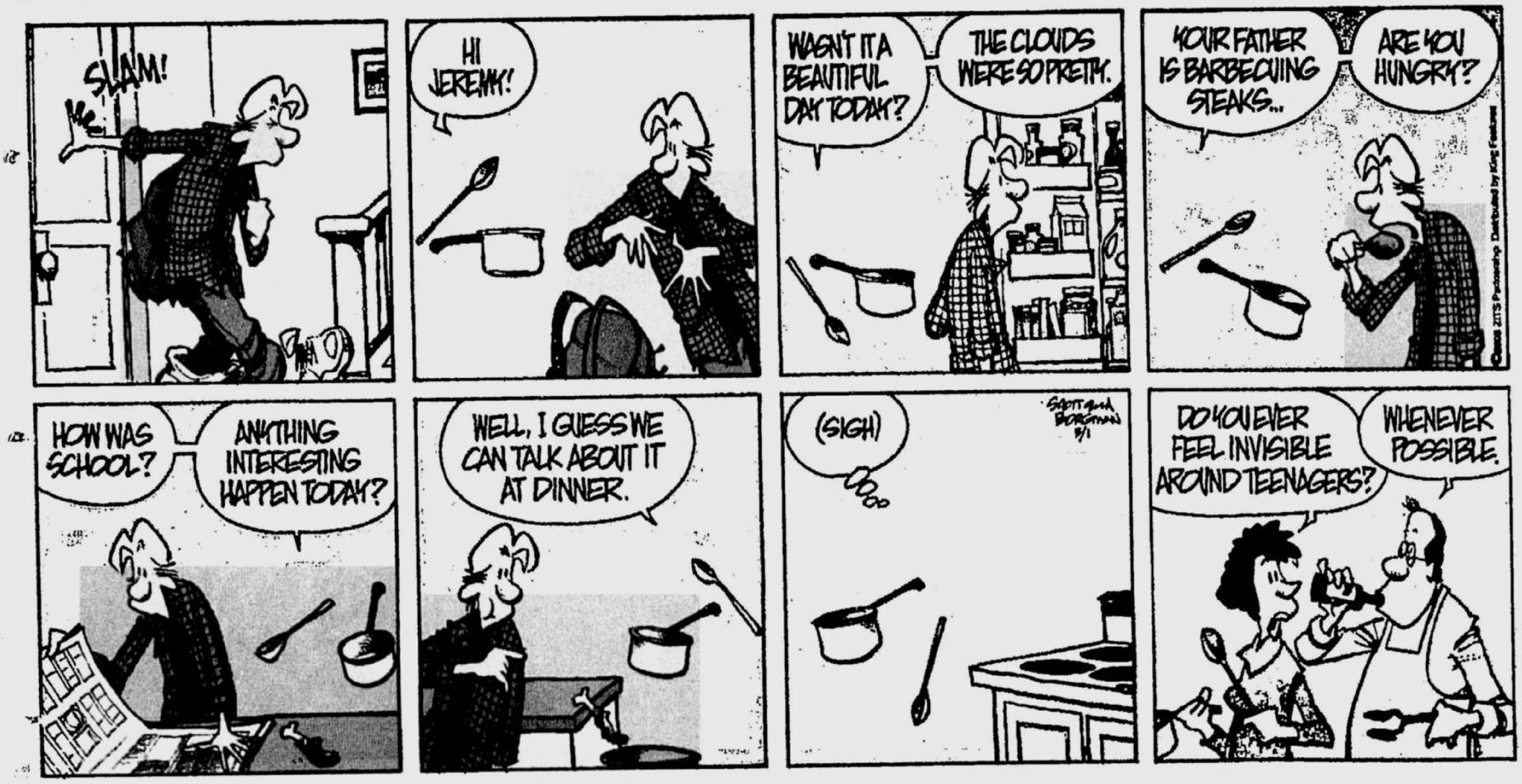
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SLAM!
HI JEREMY!
WASN'T IT A BEAUTIFUL DAY TODAY?
THE CLOUDS WERE SO PRETTY.
YOUR FATHER IS BARBECUING STEAKS...
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HOW WAS SCHOOL?
ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN TODAY?
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT AT DINNER.
(SIGH)
SCOTT and BORGMAN 5/1
DO YOU EVER FEEL INVISIBLE AROUND TEENAGERS?
WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

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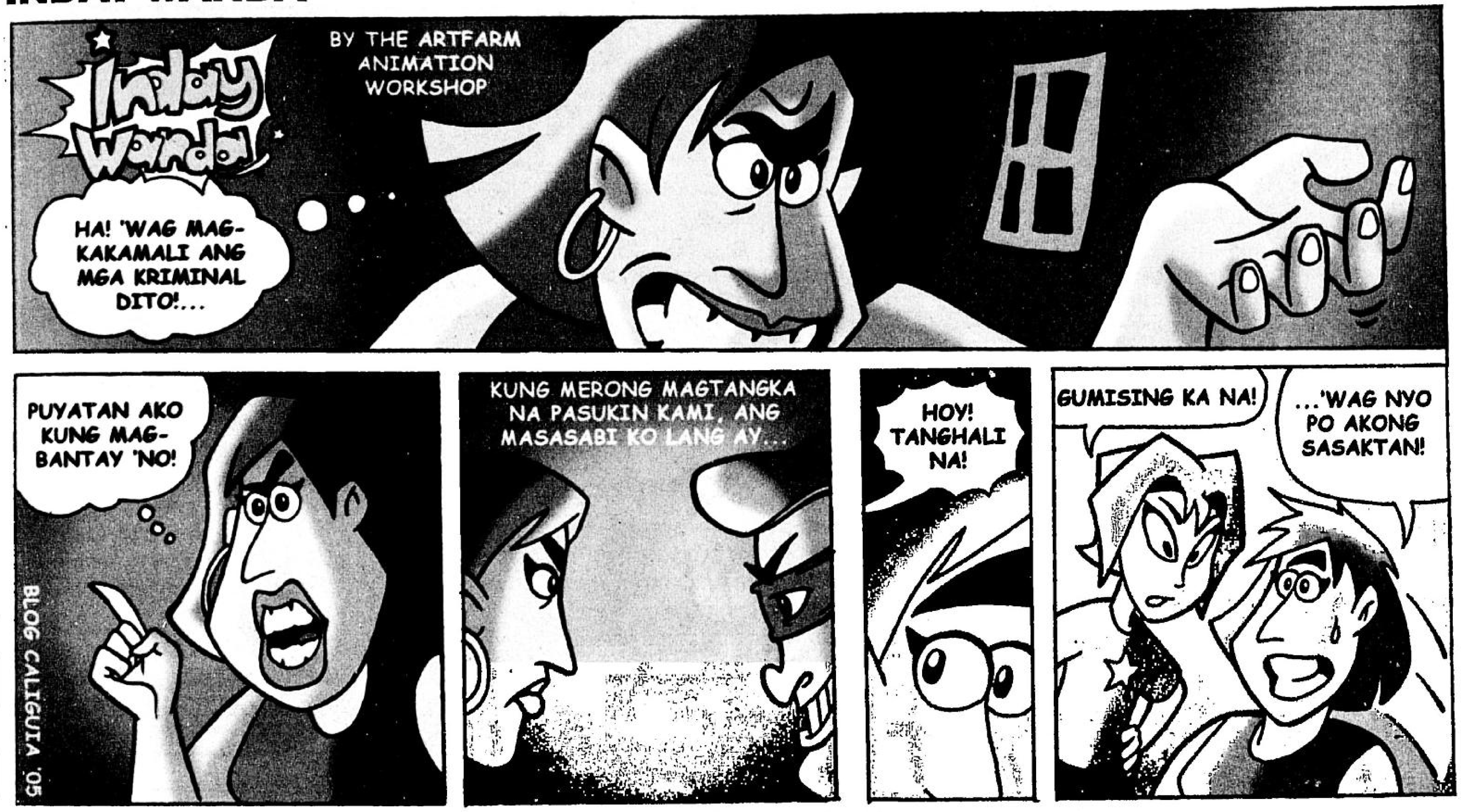
INDAY WANDA

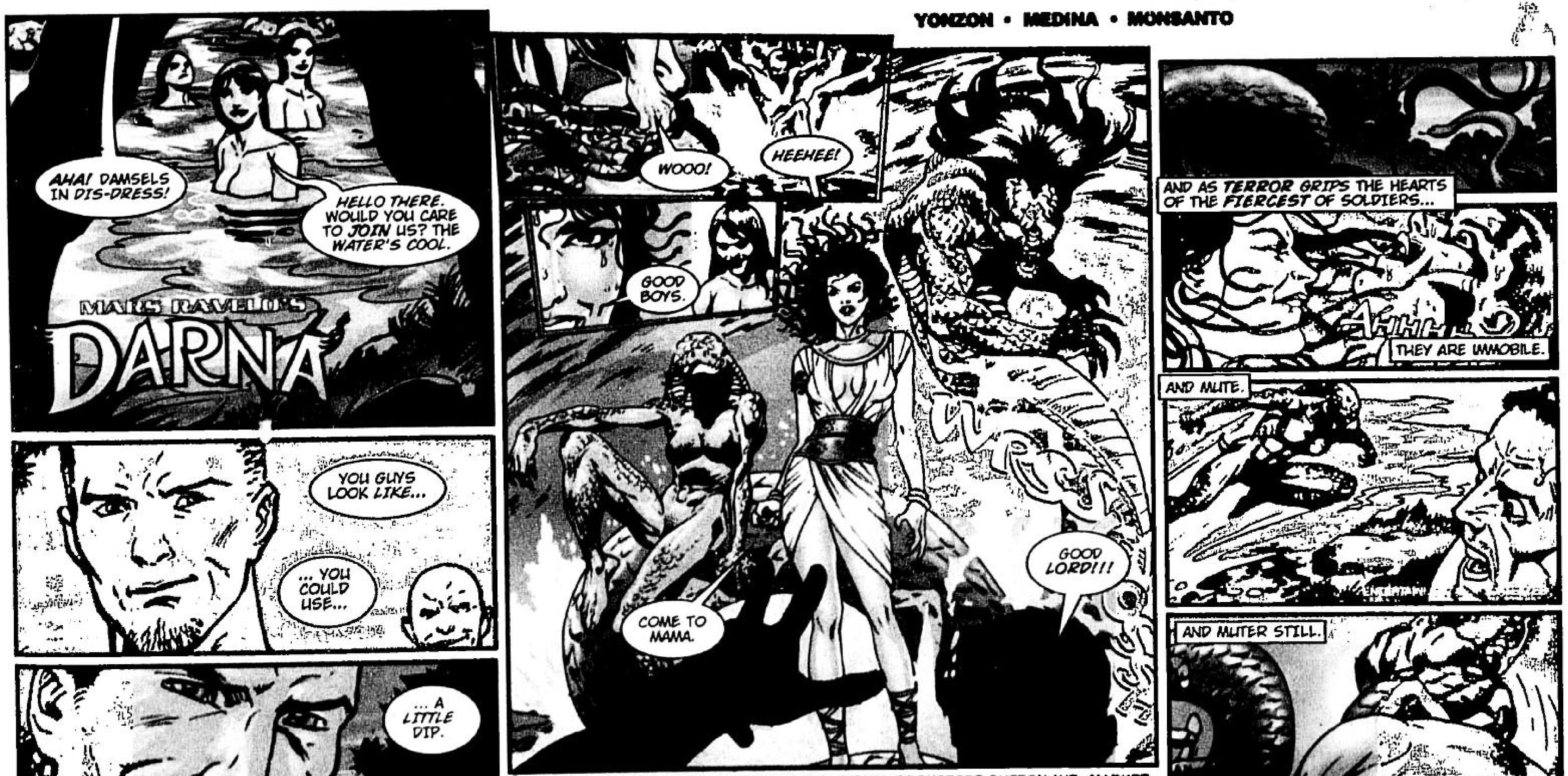
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
HA! 'WAG MAG-KAKAMALI ANG MGA KRIMINAL DITO!...
PUYATAN AKO KUNG MAG-BANTAY 'NO!
BLOG CALIGUIA '05
KUNG MERONG MAGTANGKA NA PASUKIN KAMI, ANG MASASABI KO LANG AY...
HOY! TANGHALI NA!
GUMISING KA NA!
...'WAG NYO PO AKONG SASAKTAN!

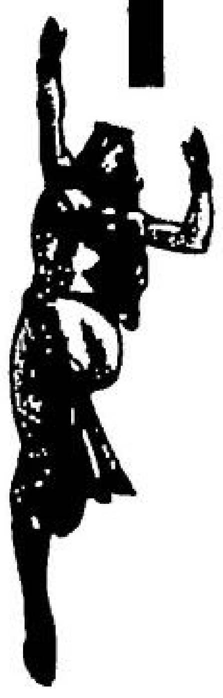
DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

YONZON • MEDINA • MONSANTO


AHA! DAMSELS IN DIS-DRESS!
HELLO THERE. WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN US? THE WATER'S COOL.
MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE...
...YOU COULD USE...
...A LITTLE DIP.
27
FROM THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
WOOO!
HEEHEE!
GOOD BOYS.
COME TO MAMA.
GOOD LORD!!!
AND AS TERROR GRIPS THE HEARTS OF THE FIERCEST OF SOLDIERS...
AHHH
THEY ARE IMMOBILE.
AND MUTE.
AND MUTER STILL.
TO BE CONTINUED...

MABIBILI SA: COMIC QUEST, POWERBOOKS, NATIONAL BOOKSTORE QUEZON AVE., MARKET MARKET, TUTUBAN, RECTO, Q-PLAZA, SM MANILA, FILBARS ALABANG, CA COMM BRANCHES, PAPYVORE, MAGAZINE EXCHANGE MEGAMALL

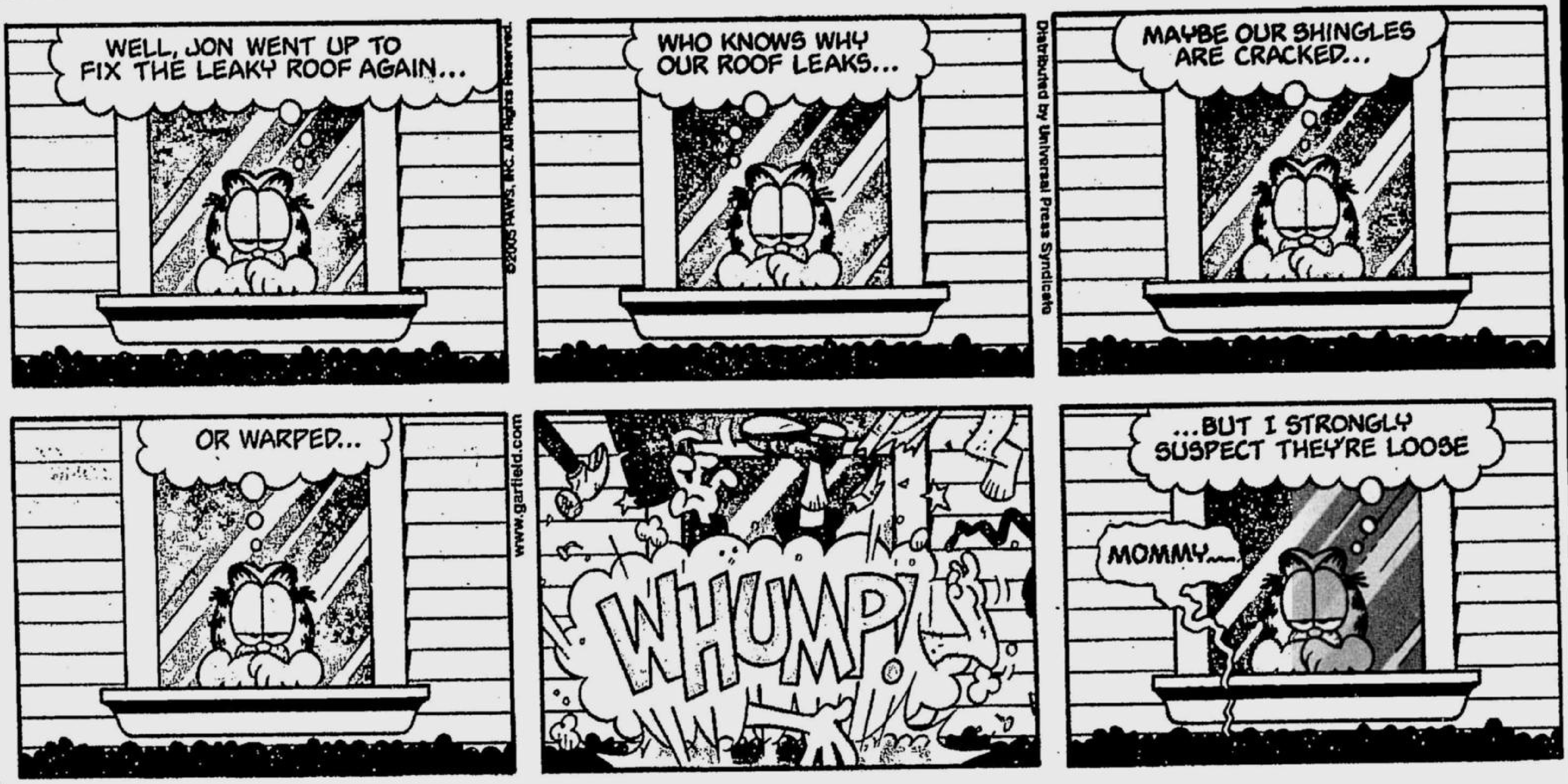


A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WELL, JON WENT UP TO FIX THE LEAKY ROOF AGAIN...
WHO KNOWS WHY OUR ROOF LEAKS...
MAYBE OUR SHINGLES ARE CRACKED...
OR WARPED...
WHUMP!
MOMMY.....
...BUT I STRONGLY SUSPECT THEY'RE LOOSE

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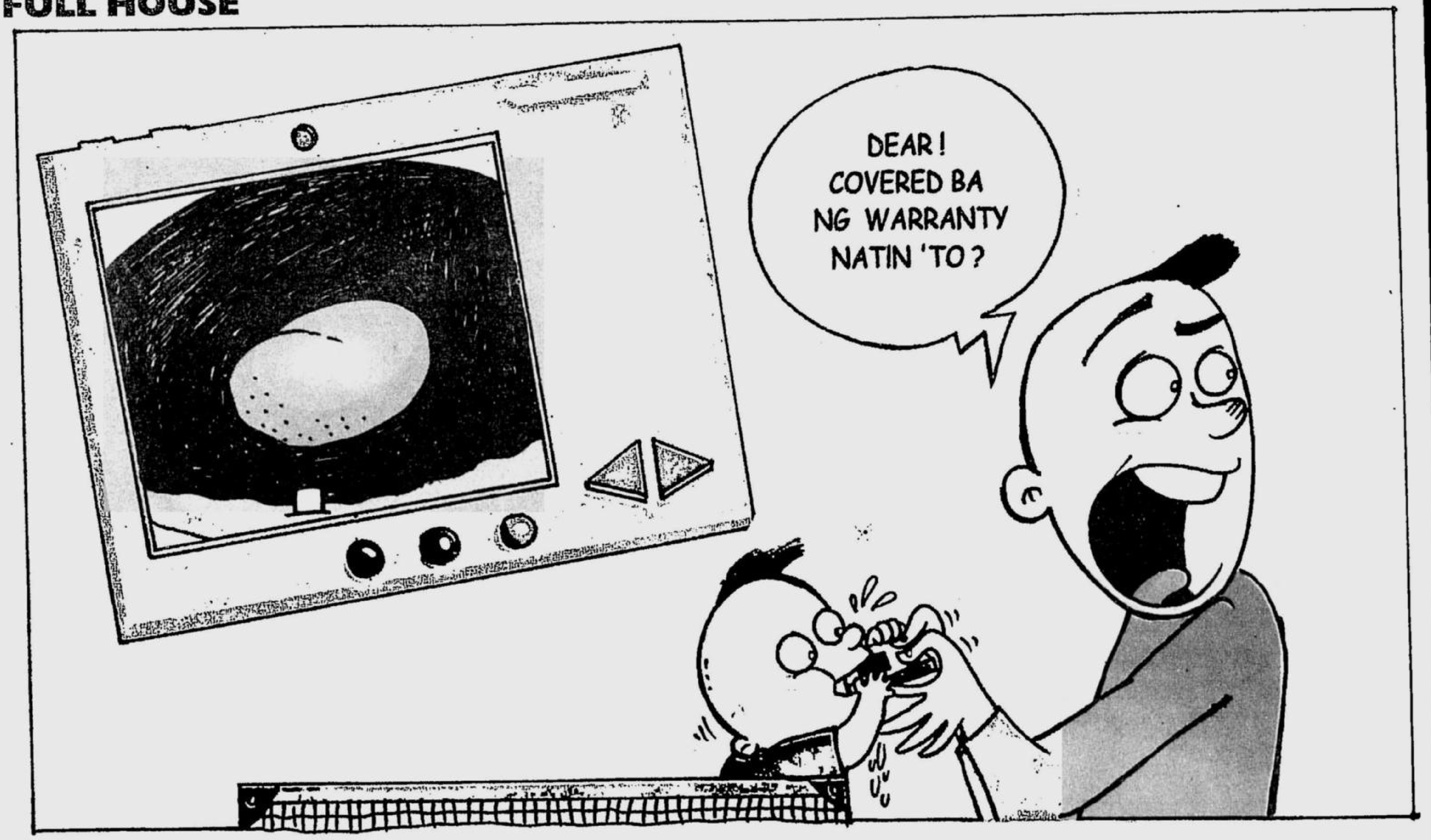
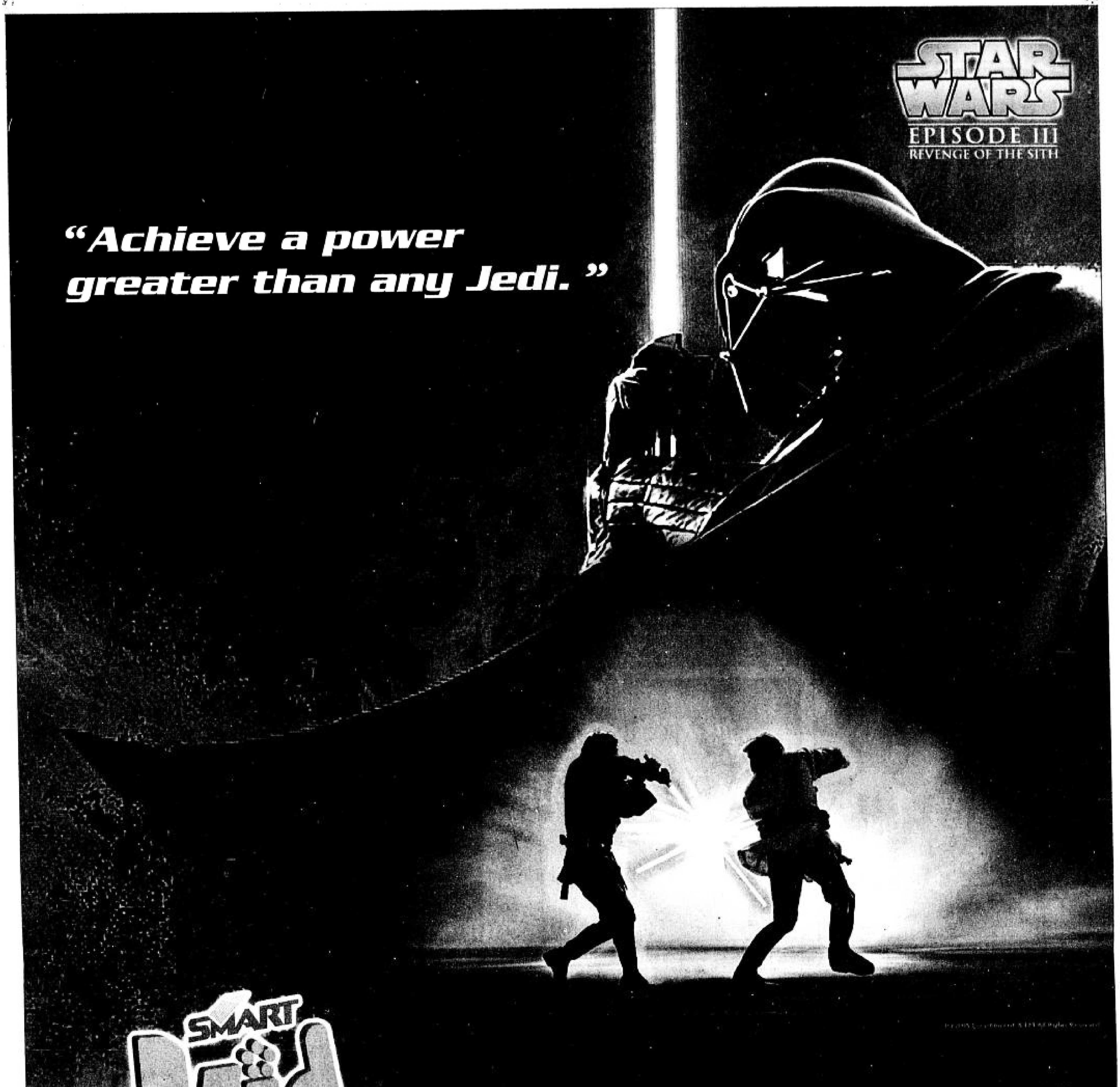
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


DEAR! COVERED BA NG WARRANTY NATIN 'TO?

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT



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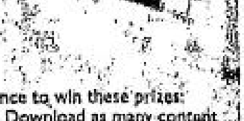

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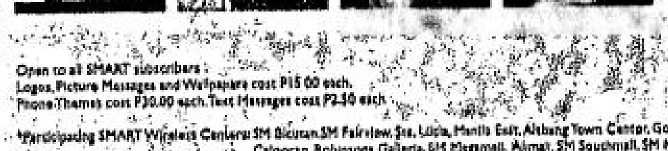

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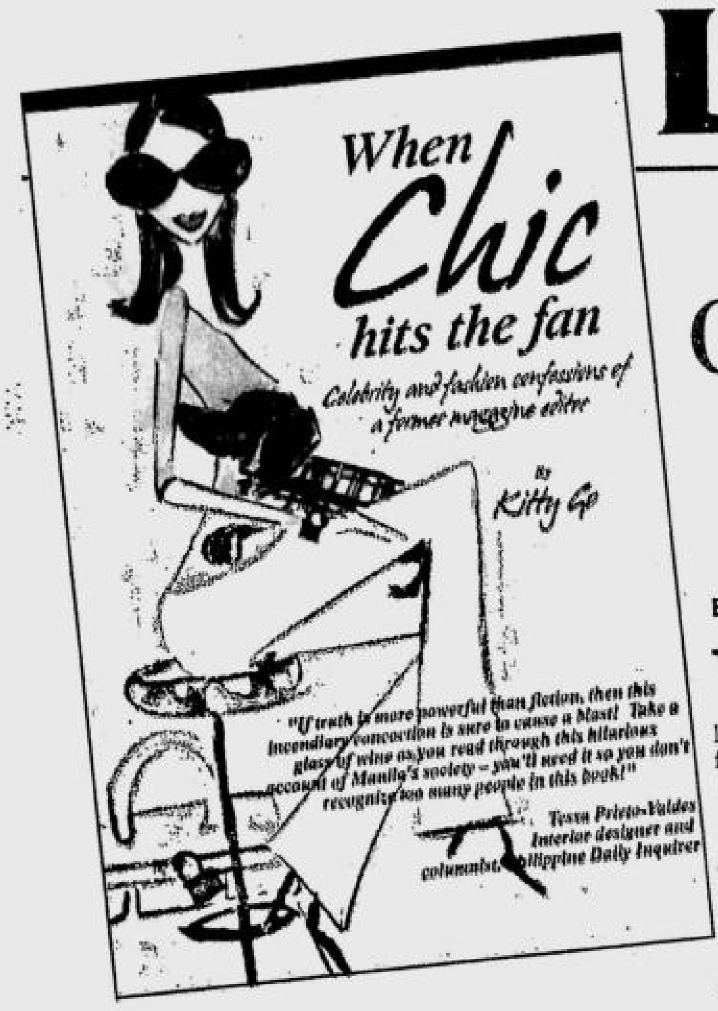
When Chic hits the fan
Celebrity and fashion confessions of a former magazine editor
By Kitty Go
"If truth is more powerful than fiction, then this incendiary concoction is sure to cause a blast! Take a glass of wine as you read through this hilarious account of Manila's society – you'll need it so you don't recognize too many people in this book!"
Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Interior designer and columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Catty take on Pinoy lifestyle media world

Irreverent Kitty Go writes the Manila version of 'The Devil Wears Prada' and shows why she'll never eat lunch in this town again

By Alex Y. Vergara

REVIEW

WHETHER they admit it or not, people who are privy to Manila's insular and often "user-friendly" social and entertainment circles would no longer be shocked or appalled by Kitty Go's novel, "When Chic Hits the Fan" (Paradigm Software Systems Inc., 2005, 105 pages).

It doesn't mean, however, that while reading it, they won't fall off their seats in stitches.

Much as it tries to masquerade as a tell-all book about the "celebrity and fashion confessions of a former magazine editor," everyone in the know knows that the thin, paperback volume is a long series of episodic blind items filled with juicy allusions to living, breathing "beautiful" people.

Some are dead giveaways,

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Anniversary video celebrates the Filipino

"IT TAKES insight to see things the way they are, but it takes vision to see things the way they can be."

Centex salutatorian Jenina Anos says it best when she delivers the opening lines of Ayala's 2005 corporate video: To build a better nation, we must begin by having a vision of what is possible for the Philippines.

Focusing on Ayala's 170th anniversary in 2004, the video builds on the theme "Celebrating the Filipino" by honoring the pioneers of the past and the present, while paying tribute to the youth as the innovators of the future—a reminder and a challenge for everyone to "pioneer the future."

The seven-and-a-half minute audio-visual presentation emphasizes the innovations of past visionaries and how they have helped lay a solid foundation for the success of today's generation. But instead of simply narrating their stories, "Celebrating the Filipino" weaves together their personal accounts in a storytelling approach that highlights the continuity of vision between generations.

Ayala itself has many stories to tell about extraordinary men and women who have brought the nation forward in various, visionary ways. Individuals who are featured in the video are outstanding achievers who are intimately connected to Ayala.

There's Fernando Amorsolo, who as a young man was given a grant by Enrique Zobel de Ayala to travel to Europe and further hone his craft. There's National Scientist Pedro Escuro, who won an Ayala Award in 1974 for his invaluable contribution to agricultural science. And there's Leandro V. Locsin, who began his career as a draftsman at Ayala and whose legacy lives on today in many cultural, commercial and business landmarks.

MARIA Ressa

NONA Garcia

JENINA Anos

Among the younger pioneers are former CNN bureau chief Maria Ressa (Ayala Young Leaders Congress panelist), BPI-DOST science awardee Johnny Balidion, multi-awarded painter Nona Garcia, Ayala joint-venture partner Paco Sandejas and Community Innovations architect Edwin Yabut.

Whether it's focused on outspoken publisher Chino Roces or young innovators like EAZIX engineer Chris Tiongson, the video essentially celebrates the greatness that Filipinos can achieve in their everyday lives.

The video culminates in a meeting between Ayala chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Centex students, led by Jenina Anos, student council president and salutatorian of the school's first graduating batch. The scene emphasizes Ayala's faith in the Filipino youth and its continuing efforts to nurture their dreams and personal development.

This year's video is the fourth in a series aligned closely with the group's unified annual reports. First presented to the public during Ayala's annual stockholders' meeting, it aims primarily to complement the Chairman's Message and President's Report by communicating Ayala's "social bottomline," enhancing the proceedings by going beyond reporting business developments and presenting the opportunity for Ayala to express its commitment to help create a better future for all.

Today, the Ayala videos have evolved significantly from its music-video roots into a critical component of Ayala's corporate marketing and external publicity efforts. They now serve as a strategic communications tool for brand-building beyond Ayala's corporate audience of stockholders and analysts. The general public can view the video before movie screenings in Ayala cinemas.

Their effectiveness has not gone unnoticed. Ayala videos in previous years won local and international awards, including two Finalist certificates from the prestigious New York Festivals.

SAMSUNG senior manager for overseas sales and marketing group Ikhyun Jung, VP for ICT Maeng Dal Bae, VP for strategy marketing group (Singapore, Philippines and Vietnam) Hyun Dae Shin, MSI Digiland president Jimmy Go, Samsung Phils. president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim, and product manager (Philippines and Vietnam) Jasmine Min

New line of printers

SAMSUNG Electronics Phils., Corp. (SEPCO) recently launched its new line of laser and digital printers in a grand summer-inspired activity at the Isla Ballroom of EDSA Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The event was well-attended by Samsung's valued trade partners composed of dealers, corporate and provincial resellers and guests, who were welcomed by no less than SEPCO chief executive officer and president Hyuck Jae Shim.

"We expect to achieve dominance in the Philippine market with the launch of our state-of-the-art printers as we bring our partnership to greater heights," Shim said in his opening remarks.

The show was hosted by Ms. Philippines Air 2001, most sought-after events host Menchu Antigua and TV host-actress Sherilyn Reyes.

The entire ballroom was transformed into a "beat-the-summer-heat" place, with the Samsung mono, multi-function, color and photo laser printers attractively showcased in four interactive booths: the dream office which demonstrates the operations of color printers; study area for the multi-function capabilities of laser printers; the solutions booth for wireless printing capabilities of Samsung laser printers; and the photo gallery for wireless photo printing.

These booths were manned by knowledgeable personnel who readily demonstrated the functions of each product to interested guests.

A highlight of the event was the performance of the country's 'soul siren,' Nina.

Guests and dealers actively participated in games such as Beat the Summer Heat with Samsung Monochrome Digital Printers, Samsung Multifunction Laser Printers Body-Buddy game, Samsung Laser Printers Burst of Colors game, and the Samsung Photo Printer Picture! Picture! game.

BB. PILIPINAS-International 2005 Lara Kigaman, Samsung Phils. president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim, Bb. Pilipinas-World 2005 Carlene Aguilar, and Samsung VP-marketing strategy group (Vietnam, Philippines and Singapore) Hyun Dae Shin

GOLDTECH'S Gigi Ngui, Samsung's Tammy Basilio, product manager; and Angie Limbaco, corporate marketing head

Living room and kitchen luxuries

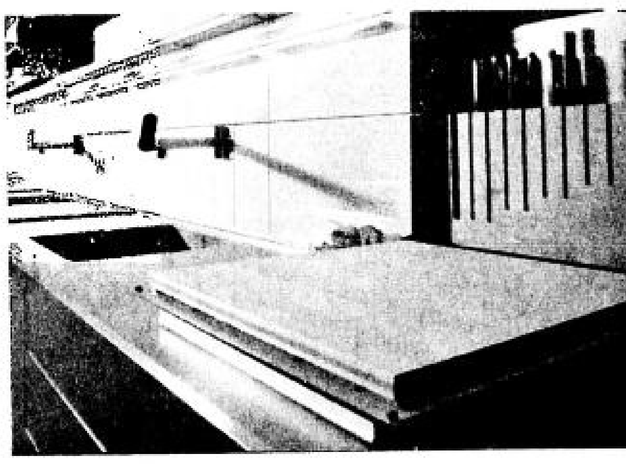
MINOTTI and Bulthaup, together with BluPrint and Lifestyle Asia magazine, showcase its latest premium furniture collection at its shop at the 2/F Makati Shangri-La's Retail Arcade.

Minotti and Bulthaup create world-famous living room furniture and kitchen fixtures. In Minotti's 50-year history, "the company follows the direction of fashion in order to pursue more modern concepts of furniture. A great deal of emphasis is placed on fabrics, materials and styling, which makes us different from our competitors. We can make things lighter and airier, in spite of using heavy materials such as chrome or leather," it says in a statement.

Among Minotti's star clients are Julia Roberts, George Clooney and Madonna.

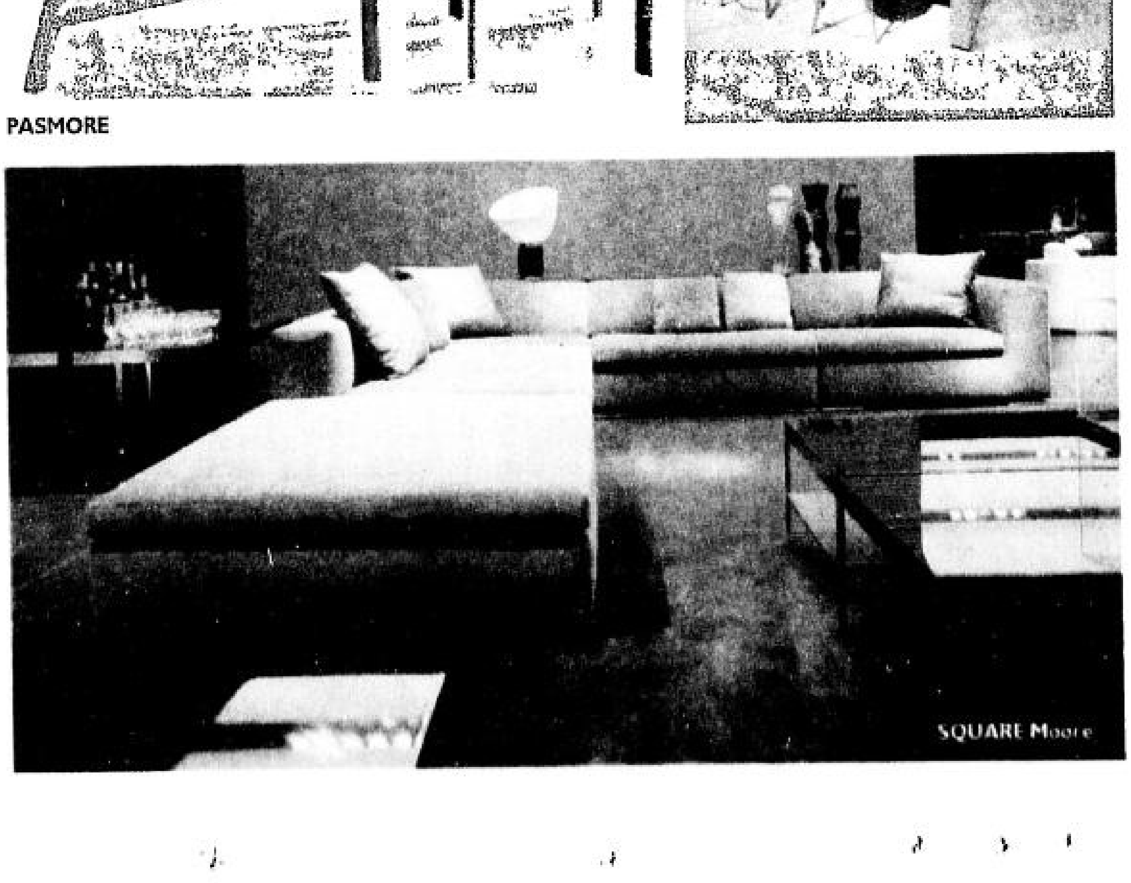
Bulthaup, on the other hand, has pioneered the development of kitchen systems since the 1980s. Its newest innovation is the b3.

The three key ideas behind b3 concept are lightness, clarity and a functional wall. With the Bulthaup b3 functional wall, furniture and horizontal panels made from all kinds of materials can be suspended freely for the first time, appearing light and weightless. The stone plates, despite being only 10-mm thick, can withstand extraordinary shocks and stresses.


BULTHAUP b3 chopping board

BULTHAUP System 25 in walnut

PASMORE


SQUARE Moore

Catty take on Pinoy lifestyle media world

From page K1

while others require a bit of networking (it has now become chic to do a "When Chic" reading at parties and beat everyone else to it in identifying this or that oddball) and extrapolation to unmask the true identities of certain zany characters in the book.

Hint: Go sometimes deliberately misleads the reader by assigning certain characters with different genders (and sexual orientations) and swapping a person's initials and christening him or her with a new name.

Indeed, the book is as close as one can get to glimpses of Go's colorful but short-lived stint as an outspoken editor in the glossy world of magazine publishing. But high-profile reader, watch out! The book can only stay funny as long as Go makes mincemeat of the person next to you.

Since Manila's social scene is getting smaller and (yawn) shallower by the minute, it's not unlikely for you to stop dead in your tracks while going through a chapter as it suddenly dawns on you who the object of your amusement is. And it isn't your *labandera* or your *manikurista* Go is making fun of.

Big-time suck-ups

Indeed, "When Chic" may be a bit jarring because of the slew of characters Go introduces in rapid-fire succession. But it somehow keeps steady by focusing on three hapless souls who are the author's favorite whipping boys, classic examples of successful suck-ups. Big time!

But the real story isn't about gay twins Ned and Nicky Nivera, who, with nothing but saliva and the right connections to see them through, have turned social climbing into an art form. Nor is it about how Alicia Santos-Daniels, who can hardly fill out a Unimart raffle ticket, much less tell the difference between "its" and "it's," "their" and "they're," has the nerve to pass herself off as a social editor and get away with it.

Their, er, they're far from unique. We're pretty sure that every big city in the world has its share of resident social climbers, pretenders, hired hacks, home wreckers, sycophants, walking science projects, callow brats, aspiring low lifes and what have you, which Go's book has plenty of.

If anything, the book can also be viewed as a biting social commentary on the shallowness of Manila society (as if we don't already know).

In more enlightened times, for example, Alicia and her ilk would never have made it past the security guard's outpost had serious editors and discerning readers put their foot down (Go, as Giselle Cordero, is partly to blame, mind you).

Believe us, a reader who makes a career out of landing in the gallery of left-to-right snapshots every week is a minor irritant compared to the pseudo-journalist with an agenda.

It's also a cautionary tale of how some media practitioners (especially in print) have made beautiful and/or pedigreed non-talents journalists-slash-monsters overnight.

At the rate this phenomenon is going, it won't be long before the hard-earned byline gets supplanted by a famous person's stilted and heavily retouched photo taken sometime during the last millennium. It seems no matter where you turn, everyone in the metropolis is a "columnist."

Like where on earth can you find ersatz journalists who compel their subjects to answer slum book-type questions and pass off such nuggets of wisdom as columns? Duh.

Where the topic of precious column space (have mercy on those vanishing trees!) ranges from how a personality prefers her coffee after being dead to the world all morning to how she dealt with her grief when her dog chased after the light? As if we care.

'Dancing' journalists

At the risk of sounding cynical, however, lifestyle and entertainment journalism as we know it in this benighted land requires practitioners to do some "dancing" to get a few things done.

How come? Everything you say or write is taken personally, including, say, a freaking fashion review. We said your clothes were ugly, okay, not you.

In such a personalized setup, it's not unlikely for even the most detached journalist to find his resolve to stay objective eroding with the passing of the decades. Too bad, Go didn't stay long enough in the media biz to show us how far she can go before she runs amuck.

To a certain extent, Go can dare say what she said because she has virtually nothing to lose. Apart from being a good writer-cum-needler, she's financially independent (okay, rich!), ultra-fashionable (she spews out fashion-related similes and metaphors faster than the Parisian arbiters of style can say trends) and most important, out of the parochial loop that is Manila society to give a hoot who gets hit or what.

Breezy and peppered with Go's sharp and sometimes condescending wit (English speakers with "accents" and *bomba* stars who aspire to move up the social ladder by marrying a rich foreigner, beware!), the book makes the reader feel as if he's conversing—gossiping, actually, is more on target—with the author just across the table.

We only wish Go paid more attention to proofreading and a bit of editing, as the book has its share of typos and grammar lapses (but not the Alicia Santos-Daniels variety, thank goodness).

So what makes "When Chic" a truly page-turning, "unputdownable" tome? Our innate penchant to read about other people's foibles is one.

But the book's main come-on is the simple fact that Go said everything (and then some) about stuff we've all been dying to shout out to the rest of the world but were compelled to merely say in whispers for fear of offending a friend of a friend of a friend of a big person.

In short, Go became too personal in a city that loves to take everything you say, well, personally. And she paid dearly for it.

Getting barred from one's magazine launch because celebrities had threatened to boycott the event if they saw so much of a shadow of you or hiring two-bit photographers from the bowels of police stations since you and your staff had been banned from this or that showbiz function was no laughing matter.

To her credit, Kitty Go makes it sound as if it was.

"When Chic Hits the Fan" retails for P275 at selected National Book Stores, or may be ordered by e-mail at loudmouthtwn@yahoo.com.tw

E-mail the author avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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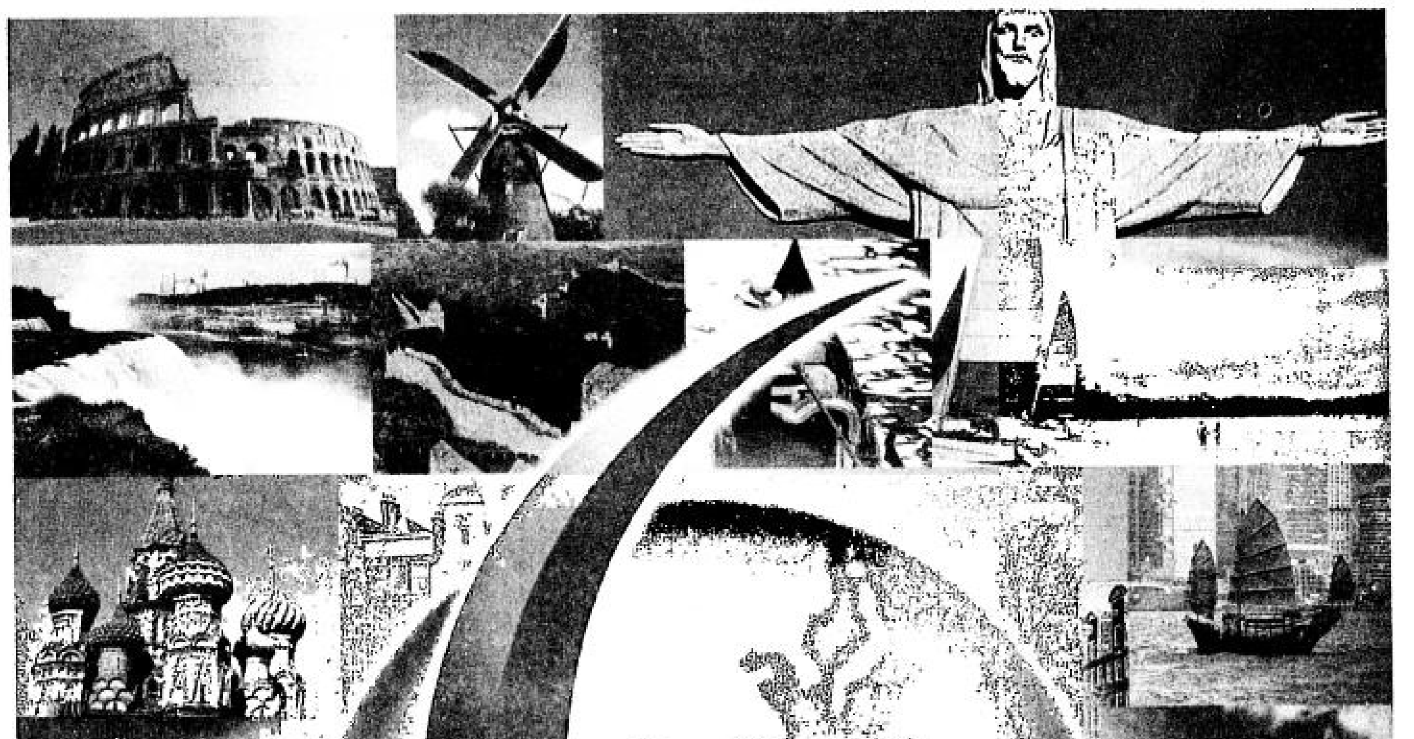

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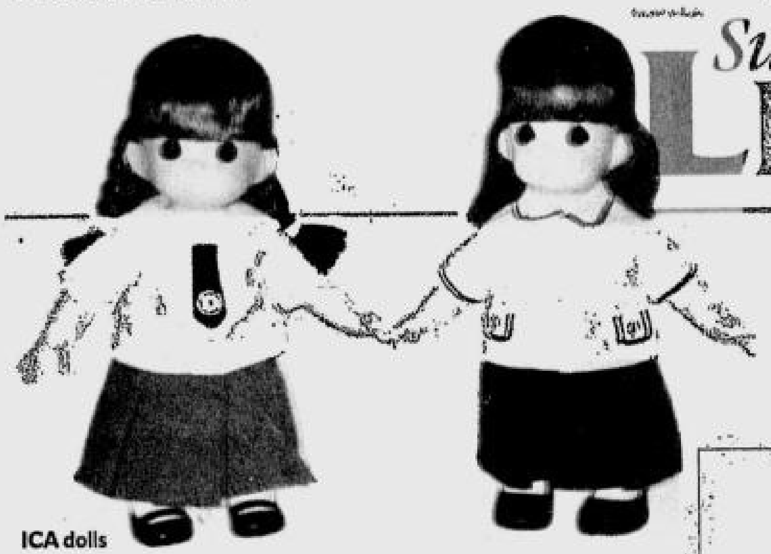
'Ah, Chinoy kasi!'



ICA dolls

By Kitty Go
Contributor

LIFE was not easy growing up as a Chinese-Filipino (or Chinoy) from the '60s to the '80s—the primary reason being that the Chinese were not as accepted in Philippine society as they are today. Those were the days when to be a Spanish mestizo was looked upon highly and us Chinoys were just, well, "Intsik beho," which is a line hardly used today. Those were the days when it was fashionable to pepper conversations with *es que, oye como va* or, better yet, French.

> Those were the days when Chinoys were called *'Instik beho'*

But our distance from society was not as severe as the way we were brought up. Two books summarize our lives: "Pride and Prejudice" and "Crime and Punishment." It is this combination of pride (in our race) and prejudice (in the country we called our home), crime (what we did to pass Chinese and math classes) and punishment (what we GOT if we didn't pass PE) that undeniably binds us all together, regardless of how our lives turn out.

At that most unfashionable time to be Chinese, we had to learn the language not because it was the language of business (who knew a new generation of Communists would rule the world with capitalism?) but because we were Chinese.

"You can speak other languages, but people would laugh if they found out you were Chinese and you didn't speak Chinese," my parents would harp. Well, let me tell you, they still laugh at me today even if I can speak Chinese, French and Spanish, and write for the most Oxbridge English of publications.

So what happened? That, I cannot answer, but for a Chinese born in the Philippines, educated in America, married to an Englishman, who writes for English papers in Europe and Asia, and spends a lot of time in both places, go figure. I think it has to be a case not of mistaken but unidentifiable identity. I also charge it to the fact that I have mastered not a single language and have yet to find a country I could really call home.

The pain of being Chinoy

As a young Chinoy, the greatest crime next to getting expelled (then you got sent to La Salle, and that was good because they were only half-day and you could go to Shoppesville) was that you ended your school term with bad grades. This was far worse than listening to every Chinoy father's lecture about the time "after the war—World War II as opposed to Gulf or Falklands—when we had nothing but rice and *champoy*."

I already showed a sense of fashion at that time because I would ask, "What color, black, red or white?" At that time, there was no Barney's, so Disneyland was the prize, and Taiwan or Beijing was the equivalent of Guantanamo Bay. If you did poorly in Chinese, you would be threatened with a trip to Taiwan (then a backwater and not remotely similar to the prosperous and technologically advanced country it is today) or, worse, to a school in Beijing "where you have an uncle who is still there and knows of a very good school." (And you KNEW this SO WASN'T going to be Hogwart's)

Today I run into Filipinos all the time, either bragging about or bemoaning their children's performance in Chinese and their inability to "make the cut to study in Taiwan." What happened to the death sentence to Taiwan that was imposed when I was a kid? (Today's Taiwan happens to be a

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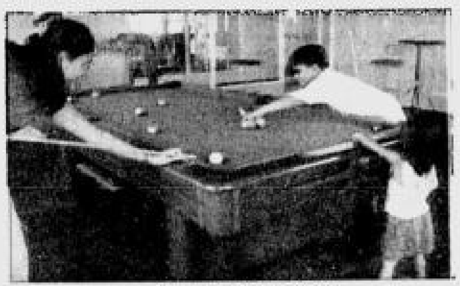

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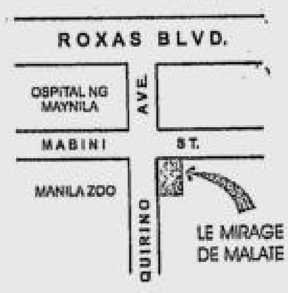

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CRISTINA Esguerra, ALI senior division manager, and Steven Goh, executive chair of Retail Asia Publishing

GINGGAY de la Merced, Digital Exchange's Ramon Cojuangco and ALI's operations manager Carmelo Jalandoni. Digital Exchange won Most Promising Retailer.

JOANNA Preysler of Carbon and Tint, Myrna Cruz Fernandez, Glorietta Center manager, and Raul Francisco of Carbon and Tint

ALI vice president Rene Almendras, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf's Paolo del Rosario and Walden Chu, and ATC's GM Javier Hernandez

Awards for top retail stores

At the 7th Annual Ayala Malls Merchant Awards ceremonies recently held at the Greenbelt 2 Park, owners, officers and representatives of the most noteworthy Ayala Malls merchant establishments gathered over gourmet hors d'oeuvres, wine and refreshments, and pleasant music to recognize the best among their peers.

For seven years now, Ayala Malls has been awarding its most outstanding retailers through the Merchant Rewards. Each mall rewards and honors its own set of merchants who have shown commitment to product innovation and customer service excellence. The most coveted major awards are the Grand Store of the Year, the Store of the Year, The Store Operations Excellence, Marketing Excellence and Visual Merchandising Excellence.

The Grand Store of The Year award went to Kamiseta, while Store of The Year awards went to Folded & Hung (Ayala Center-Manila), CMG (Alabang Town Center) and Lacoste (Ayala Center-Cebu). The awards were presented by Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president Jaime Ayala and vice president Rene Almendras.

Store Operations Excellence awards were given to Fino, Sentro, Carbon, Italianni's GB2, Nike Park GB3, Kamiseta, Folded & Hung, Shiseido, Lacoste Shoes Glorietta 3, and American Blvd (ACM); Fino, Bayo, CMG, Kamiseta and Folded & Hung (ATC); and Isis, Levi's, Alberto, Celine, Nike Park and Lacoste (ACC). Presentors were Ayala Land vice president Rowena Tomeldan, Myrna Cruz Fernandez, Javier Hernandez and Clavel Tongco who also gave the Most Promising Retailer Award to Schu, Pretty Fit and Digital Exchange (ACM); Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf; Kids of Bayo and Stoked (ATC); and Oxygen (ACC).

Marketing Excellence awards went to Firma and Gift Gate (ACM); Toby's Sports (ATC); and Pizza Hut (ACC). Presentors for these awards were Ayala Land Division Manager Cristina Esguerra together with Cathy Bengzon, Maricris Bernardino and Joy Polloso.

Overall Merchandising Excellence awards were won by Carbon (ACM), Kamiseta (ATC), and Jelly & Fish (ACC). Catherine Zobel De Ayala was assisted by Vivian Jane Jose and Javier Hernandez in presenting the awards.

The competition's panel of judges for the Overall Visual Merchandising Category was headed by Catherine Zobel de Ayala. Joining her were Jackie Aquino, Lorraine Belmonte, Agot Isidro and Randy Ortiz.

The panel of judges for Marketing Excellence were Chelo Banal-Formoso, Judith Dayrit, Jose Javier Reyes and Sari Yap.

The event's highlight was a live mini-concert by international dance diva Sybil, who performed her hits "Don't Make Me Over," "Make It Easy On Me," "Walk On By," and "The Love I Lost," among many other favorites.

Earlier in the day, store owners from Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu were also treated to the first Ayala Malls Merchants' Forum.

The forum featured retailing expert Steven Goh, executive chair of Retail Asia Publishing, who shared with the attendees global trends and concepts in retail marketing and customer service. New and exciting retail concepts in fashion, restaurants, food service were among the areas covered by Goh's talk.

Other speakers who participated in a panel discussion on "What Does it Take to Become a Successful Filipino Brand" were industry leaders Bryan Lim of Bench, Inez Silva-Reyes of Jollibee and Jimmy Santiago of TBWA.

ALI merchandise mix manager Vivian Jane Jose, Carbon's Raul Francisco, Catherine Zobel de Ayala, Gunn Roque of Kamiseta and Jelly, and Fish's Michael Quezon

RUSTAN Commercial Corporation president Rico Tantoco and ATC GM Javier Hernandez

FERNANDO and Kit Zobel de Ayala and Anton San Diego

PLANET Sports' Anton Gonzales and Patxi Elizalde

GEORGE Salud and Iñaki Garcia of Tieline

NIKE Park's Miguel Celdran and Paolo Tuason with Puma's Patxi Elizalde

PINKY Alejandrino, Gila Garcia, Shey Bolaño, Chelo Formoso and Virgie Ramos

JAIME AYALA, Alan Vianzon of Folded & Hung (Store of the Year)-Ayala Center Makati and Rene Almendras

FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala and Kamiseta's Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo Roque

JAIME Ayala, Elizabeth Quiambao of Lacoste (Store of the Year)-Ayala Center Makati and Rene Almendras

AKAFELLAS

'Ah, Chinoy kasi!'

From page L1

lot of fun, with very low crime rate, the latest in cinema, hip bars and book stores open 24 hours.)

Chinoy dolls

I have lived outside the Philippines for almost two decades, and there have been many instances where being a Chinoy has either put me in a spot or saved me from embarrassment. I have found it both advantageous, yet at the same time disappointing, at least when it comes to being a Chinoy (or *hwa chiao*/overseas Chinese) in greater China. Much to my embarrassment, I am probably the only girl in my Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA, Greenhills) class of 1980 who cannot raise money because I don't know enough generous people—painfully cheap, not chic. So when I was asked to help with the ICA Alumni Homecoming, there was nothing I knew best, but to write.

The thing about Chinese Catholic schools such as ICA is that it would be hard to show up at any reunion if you were not at least a mother or a doctor or an MBA or all three. Being a mother fulfills your biological and religious duties while being well-educated fulfills your academic duty. But what of a journalist from the fluffiest and shallowest beat in the world, the world of fashion? A world where it is an executive decision to decide what to wear?

As a former editor who could dish out beauty advice but couldn't apply eyeliner without a staff of editors and makeup artists, I dread reunions because I don't have a Phd after my name or a Dr. before it. But I have a Chloe bag that I didn't have to put my name down for and now has a world-wide waiting list!

But as they say in show biz—"commercial *muna*." Being in a business where we create waiting lists more often than housewives write out grocery lists, where limited editions usually means sky's the limit prices, I took it upon myself to write about ICA Grade School (*Siobe* or little sister) and High School (*Achi* or older sister) Precious Moments dolls, which, I am not kidding, are limited editions with a run of 3,000, produced locally by DollJoy. The limited production is established by the principal, Precious Moments USA. According to ICA Alumni 1980 coordinator Annabelle Yong, there are only 500 left, and sales began only in February 2005 as a project for the 1980 alumni to raise funds to buy gifts for teachers and staff.

According to Sandra Dy-Co of the DollJoy family, Precious Moments are popular collectibles worldwide. The creator, Samuel J. Butcher, has had a personal and business relationship with her family since 1989. Butcher enjoys the Philippines so much that he built the Sampaguita Gardens (www.sampaguitagardens.com) seaside resort (where they also sell Precious Moments dolls) in Aklan.

Each ICA Precious Moments 12-inch doll has a unique, adorable face (think: clay soldiers buried with Chinese Emperor Ch'in in 220 BC, where no two are alike), with long dark hair and "the trademark Precious Moments teardrop eyes." The dolls are dressed in uniforms using yardage from official uniform fabric. Yong describes the clothes as, "accurate reproductions of the ICA high school and grade school uniforms, complete with school seals, trims, hair ribbons, socks and shoes." Expectedly, according to Fioretta Lao, the project was initially criticized as "*baduy*" and received comments such as "Who plays with dolls these days?"

Lao wanted our class 1980 to leave a legacy as alumni who did something more than "be the ultimate volleyball team to beat." This is the first time the school has had such a project involving dolls, and Yong thinks this has driven their popularity.

"No school has come up with something that embodies the typical student," says Yong, "Xavier had their stuffed stag toy, but it didn't click." Xavier, the boys' school across the street where we are supposed to find our husbands, has a horse for their school symbol. Unfortunately, it wasn't a runaway success.

The last 500 dolls can be ordered from fesandyco@yahoo.com, feelao@firstacademy.net and ayy@pacific.net.ph

And now, back to our feature presentation.

Last among equals

Despite studying Mandarin for 12 years in Manila, I had to take a review course when my husband and I moved to Taipei in 2003. Just to let the general public know how bad my Mandarin was, let's say it was as bad as George Bush's French.

One day I asked my husband, who was then a beginner and now relatively fluent, "Did you know *si qua* is watermelon in Chinese?" He replied, "Of course! Everyone knows that. And *nan kua* is pumpkin." I turned to Nora, our helper who has survived three years in Taipei speaking a pidgin Chinese of Mandarin and Taiwanese and asked, *"Ikaw, alam mo yung si kua?"* To which she replied, *"Oo, naman,* Ma'am...." then she points to various vegetables, *"Eto, alam, mo? Alam ko eto. Eto? Ay, hindi mo alam! Naku..."*

All I could say to myself was, "How can I learn vegetables and fruit in Chinese when I don't even know how to cook in English?"

The problem with being Chinoy

The benefit of being a Hokkien-speaking Chinoy in Taiwan is they welcome you as "one of them" as opposed to Hong Kong where you are received with as much disdain as if they heard you say the casinos and horse racing stadiums would close. But Hong Kongers with some hospitality would always invite me to karaoke with the lure, "We have Sharon Cuneta..," as if this would entice me to a night of cat meowing with them. The other bad news is that in the Philippines, Chinoys—like Singaporean and Malaysian Chinese—speak their own version of pidgin Hokkien mixed, in the case of Chinoys, with Tagalog.

So it was no surprise to me when I reached a conclusion with my landlord who speaks Taiwanese (or *tai yi*, which is very similar to Hokkien) and said in my best Chinoy Hokkien, *"Ho, sige, di bahala lo...."* (For non-Chinoy Hokkien speakers, this can be translated into Tagalog as *"Sige, bahala ka na"* or in English as "I leave it up to you.") To a Chinoy this would go unquestioned. But to a Taiwanese, it sounded like *tai-yi*, but it was another language. My landlord asked me if I was speaking a Taiwan aboriginal tongue.

When I do fashion interviews in Chinese, I find that subjects warm up when they find I can speak Taiwanese. I usually slip in some Taiwanese words in the interview, then they light up and practically tell me where they buy their thread.

The Chinoy in France

I don't care what people tell you about how fabulous French food is. The thing about France is that there is nowhere to eat REAL food between 3 and 8 p.m. except at McDonald's. And to any self-respecting Chinoy, this is certainly a crime of unfashionable proportions. However, grace a Dieu, a Chinese restaurant exists in my town. If not, we would have moved long ago.

Of course, this Chinese restaurant starts serving dinner at 6 p.m. and is open on Sundays and Mondays even during off-season. For those pretentious French gourmets, let me tell you one thing: I see chefs and maitre d's from Michellin-star restaurants in our town at this Chinese restaurant on any given day.

The Chinese and French have different attitudes towards food. I, for one, stock up on enough food to see me through nuclear fallout once a week the way we do in Manila or in America. The French like to buy their food fresh daily, either at village markets or neighborhood grocers. They are particular about what fruit, meat and vegetables to buy, and grocers help them choose the best produce for the time they need it for.

So when my regular fruit vendor would ask, "C'est pour quand?" (When is this for?) when I buy fruit, I would always answer "Toute semaine!" (The whole week!). I did this for years and wondered why the hell was this guy always asking me when the fruit was for? Whenever he would see me, he would call me "Madame toute semaine." For years I thought this was just his way of identifying "the only Chinese in town aside from the restaurant-owners." I have just realized that all these years, he was making fun of me. It was only this year when I read Mirelle Guiliano's "French Women Don't Get Fat" that I realized the French attitude towards food and my grocer's attitude towards me. But I will surprise him with my answer this summer.

Luckily, I have gotten away with so much because I am not French. Vive le Chinoy!

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com

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1. Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQuest Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
2. To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQuest website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30pm at ABC5). To answer, text in this format: INQ Q <question #> <answer> and so on Ex: INQ Q1 A
3. Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text answer entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
4. For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
5. There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (6 winners*). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding preliminary draws. Final draw winner can only win once.

Question	Question Date	Cut-Off	Draw	Bonus Prizes for Correct Answers
Q1	March 9	March 12	March 14	Apple iPod 20GB
Q2	March 16	March 19	March 28	Canon PowerShot A75
Q3	March 20	March 30	April 4	Apple iPod 20GB
Q4	March 31	April 2	April 4	Canon PowerShot A75
Q5	April 3	April 6	April 11	Apple iPod 20GB
Q6	April 10	April 16	April 18	Canon PowerShot A75
Q7	April 17	April 23	April 25	Apple iPod 20GB
Q8	April 24	May 7*	May 9*	Canon PowerShot A75
Q9	May 22*	June 4*	June 6*	5 x P80,000.00 Cash; Apple iPod 20GB*

6. The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a Guyito doll. An additional prize (Apple iPod or Canon Digicam) is given if he/she sent a correct answer.
7. The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional P80,000.00 cash prize will be given to those with correct answer. A sixth winner will be drawn to automatically receive an Apple iPod 20GB regardless if his/her answer is correct or not.*
8. Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
9. Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
10. Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
11. The following must be presented for verification:
    a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
    b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate
    c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
    d. PDI mast head (including date) taken from issue where question was published
12. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
13. All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
14. The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
15. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQuest, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
16. Promo period is extended until June 4, 2005.*

*Approved by DTI. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1123, Series of 2005

Grand opening for antiques haven

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

JOEL del Prado and his pretty wife Carla (nee Larrazabal) had a grand opening for their well-appointed antiques shop, Coleccionista de Antiguedades (the exact equivalent in Spanish for "antique collector").

The name was suggested to them by their dear uncle, Napoleon Rama, whose daughter Liza was present at the inaugural with an impressive collection of jewelry for sale. She uses antique components to make new designs. You'll get new ideas on what to do with "tambourine" necklaces.

Guests of honor were Minnie Osmeña and Michel and Amparito Lhuillier. They were assisted at the ribbon-cutting by Joel's parents, Joe del Prado and Corazon Rama del Prado, as well as by his dear aunt Carmen del Prado, who lives in a suite above the store.

The shop is located in the stately ancestral home of Joel's grandparents, Quiterio and Pilar (nee Chiong Veloso) del Prado, who built it in the 1920s. It retains all its charms and is a reminder of prewar Cebu which lost 80 percent of its structures to incendiary bombs during World War II.

Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña came to the opening, as did young Councilor Edu Rama, beauteous Annabelle Rama Gutierrez, Connie Rama Revilles and dashing Fernando Rama escorting Myra Gonzalez Osmeña, who has since left Cebu for the wedding of her son in Spain.

This shop doesn't look like the usual antiques store. It has an orderly feel, as in a home of yore. There are fine dining tables, crystal cabinets, carved consoles, solid altar tables, graceful chairs, lamps of exquisite crystal and Chinese porcelain pieces. The things all seem to have been made for art's sake when they were crafted, so unlike the usual rough "old" things you see in piles at other shops.

MAYOR Tommy Osmeña, Minnie Osmeña, Ed Alegrado and Michel Lhuillier

The party was a gourmet event of the first order, catered by Amparito Cuisine, with Teresing Mendezona supervising it all. Her homemade paté was great, and so was the chicken curry served with about two dozen garnishings. The *gambas al ajillo* was a hit, as was the pile of aged cheeses on a separate table.

As to wine, only the very best was served. Joel must have a whole cellar of St. Emillon Chateau Bourna 1997. It flowed all night.

Michel and Amparito were among the top buyers that evening, and everyone knew why. The couple is building a new home on a high mount in Maria Luisa Estate Park. It has a 360-degree view of nature at its most lush. Eddie Alegrado is also building a new house nearby, and so he was eyeing tables and consoles, later opting for a solid table that everyone coveted. It's of "*balayong* wood," he explained, "quite rare."

Glamorous architect Tessie Javier got most of the antique crystal lamps of different colors, saying they were perfect for a new abode she's planning for some VIP. Gladys Lim Uy couldn't resist a Ming jarlet. Michael and Rose Hennessy opted for a crystal vitrine, but she kept going back to another one where Liza Rama had her treasurers. That Cartier watch in platinum, circa 1950, was really magnificent.

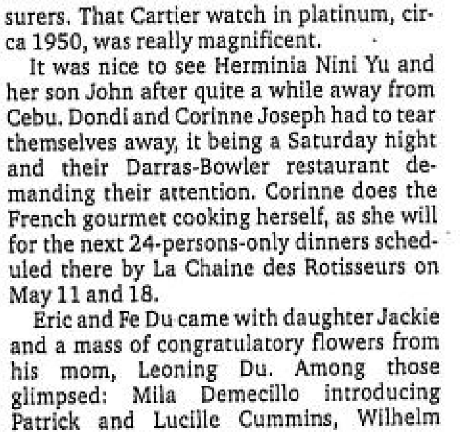
It was nice to see Herminia Nini Yu and her son John after quite a while away from Cebu. Dondi and Corinne Joseph had to tear themselves away, it being a Saturday night and their Darras-Bowler restaurant demanding their attention. Corinne does the French gourmet cooking herself, as she will for the next 24-persons-only dinners scheduled there by La Chaine des Rotisseurs on May 11 and 18.

Eric and Fe Du came with daughter Jackie and a mass of congratulatory flowers from his mom, Leoning Du. Among those glimpsed: Mila Demecillo introducing Patrick and Lucille Cummins, Wilhelm Bolton, actress Ira Madrigal, Monina Blanco, Gavin Bagares, Chinggay Utzurrum, Cookie Newman, Nestor Alonso, Dr. Yolanda Oporto, Guiseppe and Raquel Genko, and lots more.

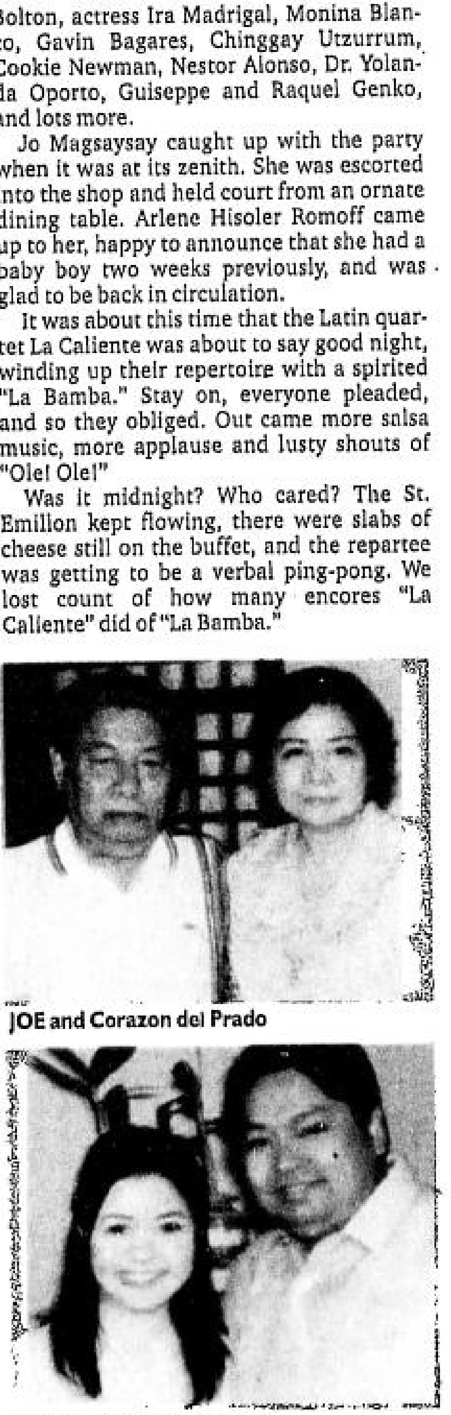
Jo Magsaysay caught up with the party when it was at its zenith. She was escorted into the shop and held court from an ornate dining table. Arlene Hisoler Romoff came up to her, happy to announce that she had a baby boy two weeks previously, and was glad to be back in circulation.

It was about this time that the Latin quartet La Caliente was about to say good night, winding up their repertoire with a spirited "La Bamba." Stay on, everyone pleaded, and so they obliged. Out came more salsa music, more applause and lusty shouts of "Ole! Ole!"

Was it midnight? Who cared? The St. Emillon kept flowing, there were slabs of cheese still on the buffet, and the repartee was getting to be a verbal ping-pong. We lost count of how many encores "La Caliente" did of "La Bamba."



JOE and Corazon del Prado



CARLA and Joel del Prado

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7TH Annual Ayala Malls Merchant Awards Night

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MERCHANTS REWARDS 2004

Outstanding retailers recognized

THE BEST and the brightest in the retail industry recently received recognition that attests to the ability of the Filipino brands to compete in the world market.

The Ayala Merchants Rewards 2004 acknowledged the excellence shown by the stores in all three of Ayala Malls: Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, and Ayala Center Cebu.

The biggest winner that evening on April 5 was Kamiseta, which bagged the much-coveted Grand Store of the Year Award. The award is not given annually but only when the judges feel that there is a much-deserving merchant for the year.

Aside from that important award, Kamiseta also took home awards for Visual Merchandising Excellence, Store Operations Excellence, and is one of the Discount Plus Card Favorites winners.

The Grand Store of the Year meant being the best across the three malls. The winner also displayed the highest standards of business management and reflects excellence to product innovation. In other words, it showed an exceptional performance for the year.

Now on its seventh year, the Ayala Merchants Rewards aims to recognize the most outstanding retailers in the three Ayala Malls.

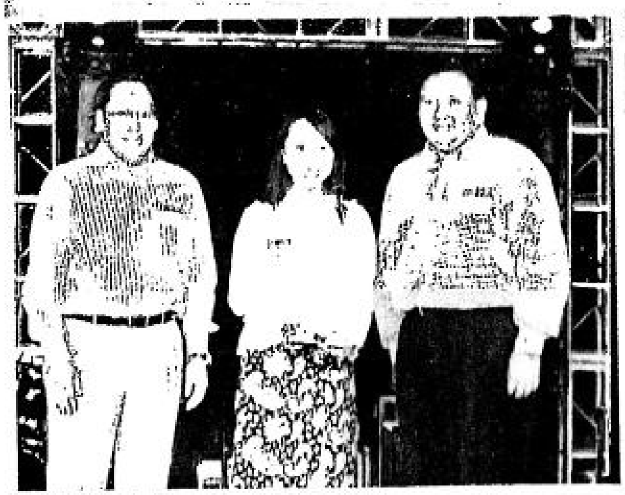
The list of winners this year is a varied lot: from fashion to food and cosmetics.

Present during the awarding cere-

OUTSTANDING/M2

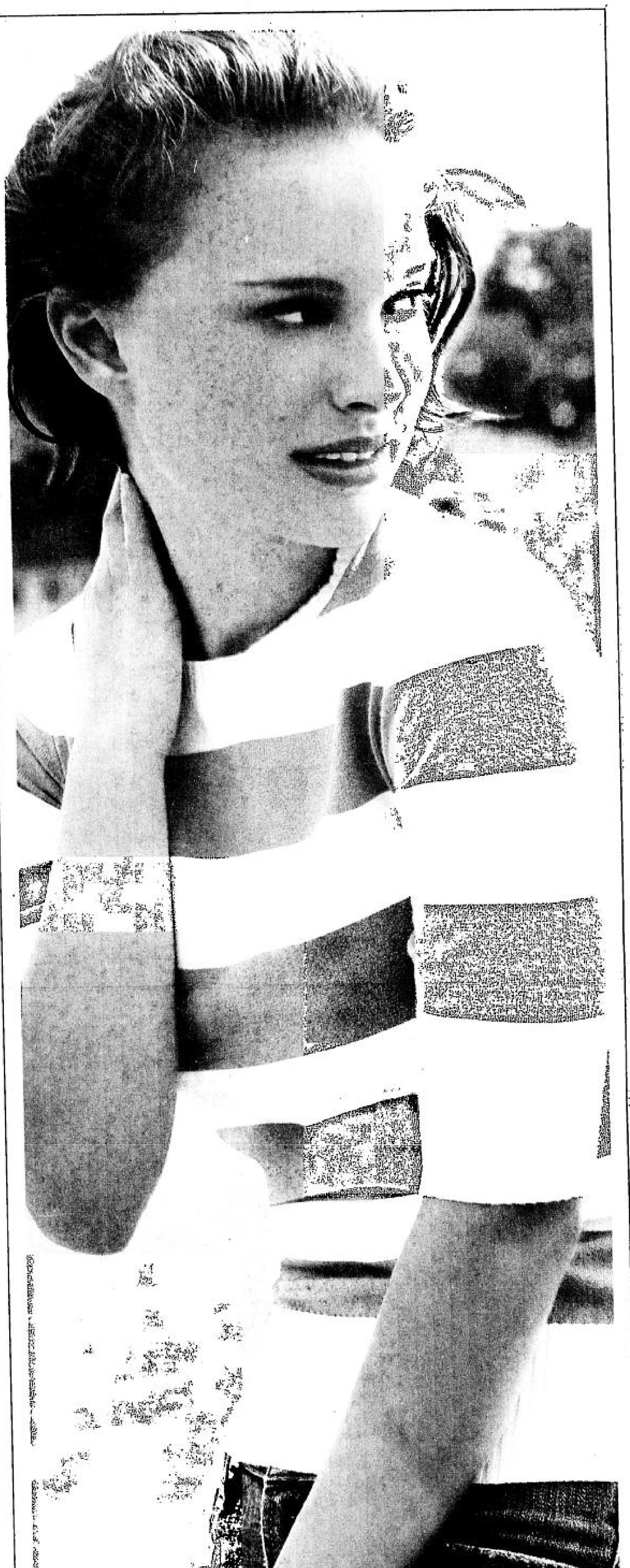
FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala - Chairman of ALI), Christina and Gunn Roque of Kamiseta

JAIME I. Ayala, Alan Vianzon of Folded & Hung Store of the Year, Ayala Center Makati and Rene D. Almendras

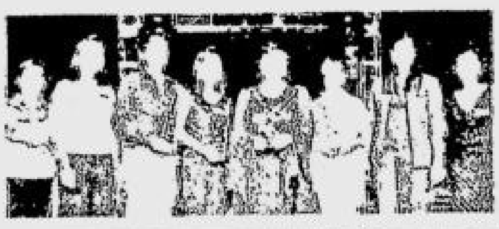


JAIME I. Ayala, Pamela So of CMG, Store of the Year, Alabang Town Center and Rene D. Almendras

JAIME I. Ayala, Elizabeth Quiambao of Lacoste- Store of the Year, Ayala Center Cebu and Rene D. Almendras

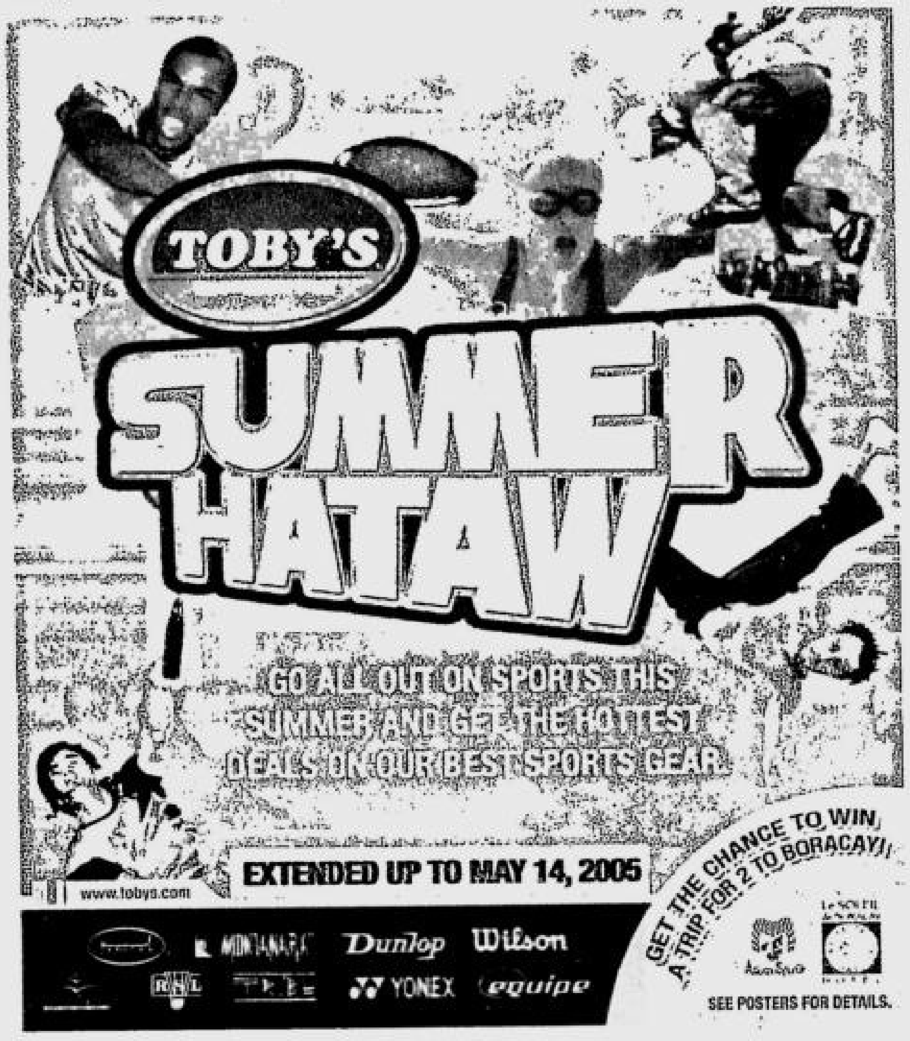

kamiseta
2004 Grand Store of the Year

VISUAL Merchandising Excellence Winners: Vivian Jane Jose (Merchandise Mix Manager, Ayala Center Makati), Raul Francisco (Carbon), Catherine Zobel de Ayala, Gunn Roque III (Kamiseta), Michael Quezon (Jelly and Fish)



MARKETING Excellence Winners: Maricris Bernardino (ACC Division Manager), Cristina D. Esguerra (ALI Senior Division Manager), Ricky Toledo (Firma), Lilyan Favis (Toby's Sports), Virgie Ramos (Gift Gate), Ruth Gonzales (Pizza Hut), Joy Polloso (Marketing Manager, Ayala Center Cebu), Catherine Bengzon (ALI Division Manager)

Most Promising Retailers: Rowena M. Tomeldan (ALI-VP), Clavel Tongco (Cebu Holdings Inc. Division Manager), Madet Diaz, (Kids of Bayo), Albert Ong (Penshoppe), Ruby Gan (Schu), Jennie Chua (Pretty Fit), JV Borromeo (Stoked), Walden Chu (Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf), Ramon Cojuangco (Digital Exchange), Myrna C. Fernandez (Glorietta Center Manager) and Javier D. Hernandez (General Manager-Alabang Town Center)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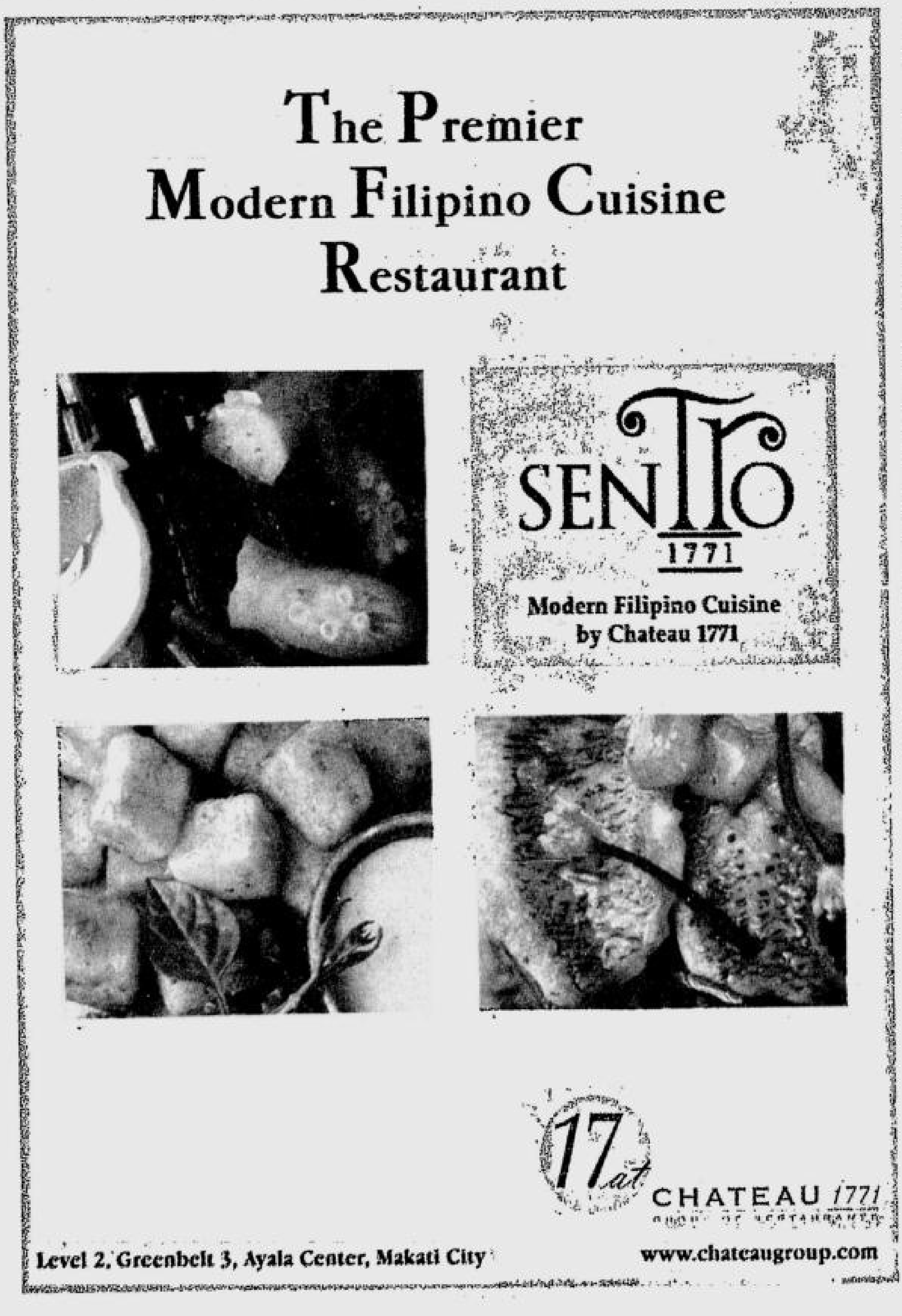
AYALA MALLS MERCHANT REWARDS PROGRAM 2005

List of Winners

	AYALA CENTER MAKATI	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
VISUAL MERCHANDISING EXCELLENCE			
Apparel Foreign	Mango	Armani	Lacoste
Apparel Local	Kamiseta	Kamiseta	Bisaya Ispisyal
Shoes/Leathergoods Foreign	Louis Vuitton	Lacoste	Lacoste Accessories
Shoes/Leathergoods Local	Carbon	Shoe Salon	Janylin
Specialty	Firma Beauty Bar	PCX	Jelly & Fish
Service	Globe Hub	Globe	Globe Telecom
Dept. Store/Jr. Anchor	Rustans	Rustans	The Maze
Overall Visual Merchandising Excellence Winner	Carbon	KAMISETA	Jelly & Fish
Christmas Décor			
Retail	Big and Small	Balikbayan	Tropikal Relik
Food	Bizu Greenbelt	Bizu	Idea Italia
Cart	Bizu	Mary Grace	Carmen's Linen
Hotel	Shangri-la		
Dept. Store/Jr. Anchor	Rustans	Rustans	Rustans
MARKETING EXCELLENCE WINNERS	Firma Gift Gate	Toby's Sports	Pizza Hut
Marketing Excellence Merit Award		Bench Folded & Hung Levi's	
Special Citation		Taters Makati	
Marketing Excellence -Values	Bench	Celine	True Value
MARKETING PARTNERS	Bench Rustan's Toby's	Hush Puppies San Mig Mossimo Gift Gate Outback	M. Lhuillier Jewellers Mother's Fried Chicken Guess Jollibee Fitness First
DISCOUNT PLUS CARD FAVORITES	Kamiseta Bench Bayo TGIFridays	CPK True Value Penshoppe	Ritratto Rusty Lopez Loalde
STORE OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE	Fino Sentro Carbon Italiannis Nike Park Kamiseta Folded and Hung Shisheido Lacoste Shoes American Blvd.	Fino Bayo CMG Kamiseta Folded & Hung	Isis Levi's Alberto Celine Nike Park Lacoste
STORE OF THE YEAR	Folded & Hung	CMG	Lacoste
MOST PROMISING RETAILER	Schu Pretty fit Digital Exchange	Coffee bean & Tea Leaf Kids of Bayo Stoked	Oxygen
GRAND STORE OF THE YEAR		Kamiseta	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Outstanding retailers recognized

From page M1

monies at the Greenbelt Park were Ayala Land Inc chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president Jaime I. Ayala, Ms Catherine Zobel de Ayala, who was one of the judges, and Ayala Land vice president for commercial centers group Rowena Manhit-Tomeldan.

The Most Promising Retailers, or what master of ceremonies David Celdran called "Rookies of the Year", included Schu, Pretty Fit, and Digital Exchange for Ayala Center Makati; Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Kids of Bayo, and Stoked for Alabang Town Center; and Oxygen for Ayala Center Cebu.

The Store Operations Excellence recognizes the efforts for strict and consistent adherence to Ayala Center's operational standards.

The Marketing Excellence, on the other hand, recognizes the efforts in coming up with marketing programs that are innovative, business and image building not only for their establishment but also for the whole center.

And the Store of the Year, which is given to one outstanding establishment in each mall, excels in the fields of store operations, marketing, and visual mer chandising.

The top honor of Grand Store of the Year award went to Kamiseta, while Store of the Year awards went to Folded & Hung, CMG and Lacoste. The awards were presented by Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president Jaime I. Ayala and vice president Rene D. Almendras.

Store Operations Excellence awards for Ayala Center Makati were given to Fino, Sentro, Carbon, Italianni's G2, Nike Park G3, Kamiseta, Folded & Hung, Shiseido, Lacoste Shoes Glorietta 3, and American Blvd; for Alabang Town Center the awardees were Fino, Bayo, CMG, Kamiseta and Folded & Hung; and for Ayala Center Cebu the awardees were Isis, Levi's Alberto, Celine, Nike Park, and Lacoste. Presentors were Ayala Land's Rowena Tomeldan, Myrna Cruz Fernandez, Javier Hernandez and Clavel Tongco, who also gave the Most Promising Retailer Award to Schu, Pretty Fit, Digital Exchange, Kids of Bayo, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Stoked and Oxygen.

Marketing Excellence awards went to Firma, Gift Gate, Toby's Sports Arena and Pizza Hut. Presentors for these awards were Ayala Land's Cristina Esguerra together with Cathy Bengzon, Maricris Bernardino and Joy Polloso.

Overall Merchandising Excellence awards were won by Carbon, Kamiseta and Jelly & Fish. Ms Catherine Zobel de Ayala was assisted by Vivian Jane Jose and Javier Hernandez in presenting the awards.

"It is tough to select the winners each year," Tomeldan observed. "We noted there were more entries for marketing excellence this year compared to the previous years. All merchants are considered for the Overall Visual Merchandising and Store Operations Excellence categories. However, only those who submitted entries for the Marketing Excellence category are judged."

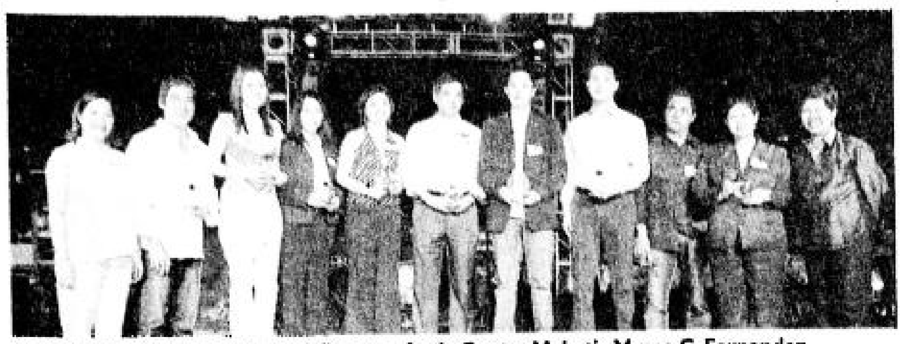
In defining the term "excellence", Tomeldan made it clear that it meant "superiority, being a cut above the rest. Winners have shown notable vision, creativity and innovation in various facets of their business. Winners have shown they can go with the changing tide and meet the growing demands and rising standards of the Filipino mall-going public."

The competition's esteemed panel of judges for the Overall Visual Merchandising category was headed by Ms Catherine Zobel de Ayala. With her were Jackie Aquino, Lorraine Belmonte, Agot Isidro and Randy Ortiz.

The panel of judges for Marketing Excellence were Chelo Banal-Formoso, Judith Dayrit, Jose Javier Reyes and Sari Yap. Tomeldan explained that the choice of judges for this year was based on their status in their respective fields of visual merchandising and marketing. "They are on top of their game and just like our winners - are people in the lead."

A pleasant surprise served to culminate the event, by way of a live mini-concert by international dance diva Sybil, who performed her hits "Don't Make Me Over", "Make It Easy On Me", "Walk On By", and "The Love I Lost", among many other favorites. The performance was merely a sneak preview of her upcoming concerts also at the Ayala Malls.

OUTSTANDING/ M4



STORE Operations Excellence Winners - Ayala Center Makati : Myrna C. Fernandez (Glorietta Center Manager), Raul Francisco (Carbon), Ricky Gutierrez (Sentro 1771), Alan Vianzon (Folded & Hung), Gunn Roque III (Kamiseta), Miguel Celdran (Nike Park), Guia Abuel (Italianni's), Rowena M. Tomeldan (ALI-Vice President)

Store Operations Excellence Winners - Ayala Center Cebu: Rowena M. Tomeldan (ALI-Vice President), Miguel Arcena (Nike Park), Elizabeth Quiambao (Lacoste), Madeline Viray (Alberto), Maritess Chuj (Celine), Ronnie Celestial (Levi's), Michael Quezon (ISIS), and Clavel Tongco (Cebu Holdings, Inc. Division Manager)

PATXI Elizalde of Puma, Anton Gonzales of Planet Sports, and Nike Park's Greenbelt 3 .Miguel Celdran, Mike Arcenas and Paolo Tuazon)

RAMON Cojuangco (Digital Exchange), Lilian Favis and Boy Favis of Toby's

STORE Operations Excellence Winners - Alabang Town Center: Rowena M. Tomeldan (ALI-Vice President), Pamela So (CMG), Dinty Alcantara (Bayo), Alan Vianzon (Folded & Hung), Gunn Roque II (Kamiseta), Javier D. Hernandez (General Manager-Alabang Town Center)

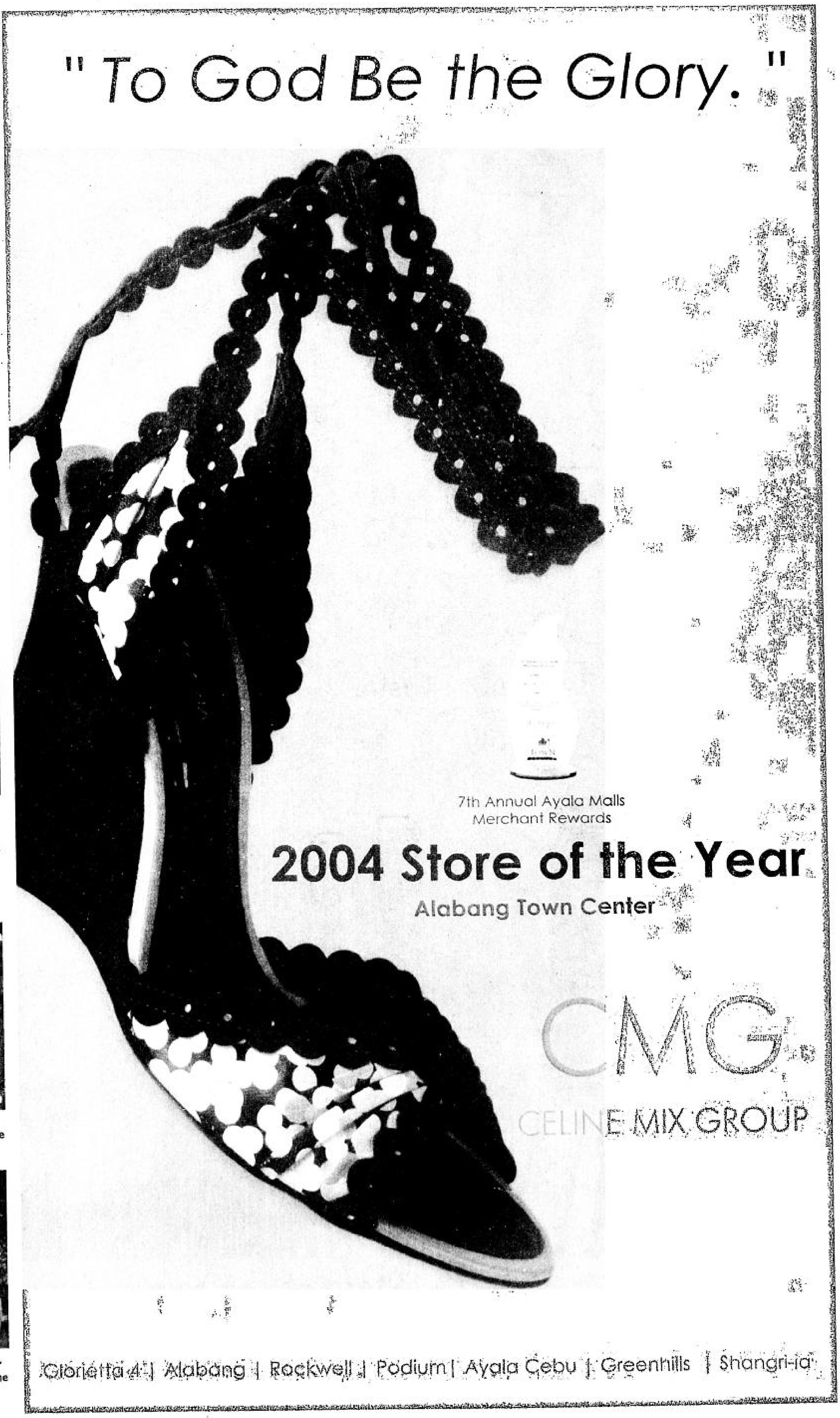
SYBIL

Melo Jalandoni (Operations Manager, Ayala Center Makati), Myrna C. Fernandez (Glorietta Center Manager), Rose Ann Bautista and Rommel Bautista (Fino)

RICKY Toledo (Firma), Cristina Esguerra (ALI Senior Division Manager), Myrna Fernandez (Glorietta Center Manager), Steven Goh (Executive Chairman, Retail Asia Publishing), Rowena Tomeldan (ALI Vice President), Ana Rocha (Haiku), Chito Vijandre (Firma) and Cathy Bengzon (ALI Division Manager)

GILA Garcia, Shey Bolaño, Pinky Alejandrino, Chelo Formoso Banal and Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate.

PAMELA So and CMG Executives pose after receiving Alabang Town Center's Store of the Year Award


" To God Be the Glory. "
7th Annual Ayala Malls
Merchant Rewards
2004 Store of the Year
Alabang Town Center
CMG
CELINE MIX GROUP
Glorietta 4 | Alabang | Rockwell | Podium | Ayala Cebu | Greenhills | Shangri-la

Outstanding retailers recognized

From page M2

MERCHANT Forum Guest Speakers: Inez Silva Reyes (Jollibee), Bryan Lim (Bench) and Jimmy Santiago (TBWA)

JAVIER D. Hernandez (General Manager, Alabang Town Center), Joanna Ongpin-Duarte, Alexi Alunan and Katrina Gonzales of Big and Small Co.

ROWENA Tomeldan with Guest Speakers Inez Silva- Reyes, Bryan Lim, Jimmy Santiago and Steven Goh.

The first Ayala malls Merchants' Forum held earlier in the day featured retailing expert Steven Goh, executive chair of Retail Asia Publishing, who shared global trends and concepts in retail marketing and customer service. New and exciting retail concepts in fashion, restaurants, and foodservice were among the areas that were covered by Goh's enlightening talk.

Other speakers who performed part of the panel discussion on "What Does It Take to Become a Successful Filipino Brand?" during the session came from the industry's brand leaders: Bryan Lim of Bench, Inez Silva-Reyes of Jollibee, and Jimmy Santiago of TBWA. An open forum that yielded a lively exchange of new ideas and strategies for successful retailing capped the fruitful morning session.

The success behind the strong brands is a result of the sensitivity to quality and commitment to social and corporate responsibility. In spite of the economic challenges that plagued the country last year, the retail industry has thrived and done pretty well. The Ayala Malls Merchants Rewards is a yearly recognition by Ayala Land Inc for innovation, creativity, vision and marketing savvy that seeks to inspire others to do their best and move the industry to greater heights. *Marlet D. Salazar*

BRIAN Tanchanco, Anna Marie Tanchanco and JP Tanchanco of Taters

JIMMY Santiago of TBWA and Steven L. Goh of Retail Asia Publishing Inc.

Reinvention Continues

FH | folded&hung

Store of the Year
Store Operations Excellence
Marketing Excellence Merit Award
7th Annual Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards

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- Must be computer literate.

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Collection Associates (Code: CA)

- Must be graduate of any business course
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With strong customer service, sales & marketing orientation
- Applicants for TMA and CA must have determination to exceed assigned targets and work under pressure
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SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay

World Vision

We are one of the biggest and leading Christian, humanitarian organizations, committed to the holistic transformational development, relief and rehabilitation, etc. of the poor communities throughout the Philippines. World Vision Development Foundation works in partnership with World Vision International consisting of over 100 WV offices around the world.

We are in urgent need of a Christian professional who have the competence, commitment and passion to work among the poorest of the poor.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST FOR COMBATING CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION

A graduate of B.S. in Education, Social Sciences or any related field, a Master's degree is an advantage; has at least 3 years of experience with a leadership role in implementing education programs such as education policy, educational assessment of disadvantaged students; development of community participation in the improvement of basic education for disadvantaged children; monitoring and evaluation of basic education project; with strong networking experience with the Department of Education and/or other network of educators; knowledgeable in child labor issues and experience in the development of transitional, formal, and vocational education of children who are victims of the worst forms of child labor.

In collaboration with the Project Director, the incumbent will provide leadership in developing technical aspects of the project such as student assessment, teacher training, education materials development, education management, and educational monitoring and information systems.

Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumé with picture detailing work history to:

Tere R. Ramos
World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.
883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
or via email at phl_hrd@wvi.org
Fax number: 374-7661

Abbott Laboratories

"To be the Premier Healthcare Company in the Philippines" is our vision. The existence of Abbott in the country for more than 60 years is a tangible expression of this commitment, providing innovative products and services that span the continuum of care -- from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure.

PHARMACOVIGILANCE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH OFFICER

- Responsible for pharmacovigilance operations on drug, nutritionals and medical devices;
- Lead the development and implementation of standard operating procedures/policies related to pharmacovigilance;
- Review medical literature for assessment and reportability of adverse events associated with drugs, nutritionals and medical devices;
- Conduct the assessment, investigation, coordination, follow-up and close out of reports of adverse patient experiences associated with marketed and investigational pharmaceuticals, nutritionals and devices;
- Prepare reports for ultimate submission to the local Regulatory Agency and to International Regulatory authorities;
- Acts as the affiliate Clinical Research personnel, including evaluation and analysis of both clinical and post marketing drug and/or device report.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Licensed Health Professional;
- At least 2 years experience in pharmaceutical industry in the areas of pharmacovigilance, medical affairs and clinical trials/quality assurance audits;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, able to work with people from various disciplines;
- Keen ability to develop SOPs and flow processes;
- Well versed in GCP principles and applications;
- Adept in all aspects of clinical trial and PMS development and management.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their updated resumés detailing work experience to:
Human Resources Department – Recruitment (Code:PCRO) ABBOTT Laboratories, 102 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.
To apply on-line, visit us at: **www.abbottrecruitment.com.ph**

Only short listed candidates shall be scheduled for interview. Previous applicants need not apply. Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

TA PHILIPPINES, INC.

AN EXPORT-ORIENTED CORPORATION
IMMEDIATELY NEEDS:

PROCESS ENGINEER

- BS Chemical Engineering Graduate or BS Chemistry Graduate
- Male, 23 to 35 years old
- With experience in a manufacturing firm

Qualified applicants can send in their resumé with recent 1 x 1 photo to:

TA PHILIPPINES, INC.
The Personnel Office
Km. 23 Ortigas Ave. Ext.,
Cainta, Rizal 1900

MIDLAND PACIFIC DEV. CORP.
NEEDS

SALES-ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The job requires solicitation of tenants for the company's properties.
Must have good communication skills.
Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling. College graduate with at least 1 year experience in sales. Fresh graduates with above average academic records are welcome.

See us in your proper business attire with 2x2 picture and resume Monday to Friday at:

Rm. 22, SF, Midland Plaza Hotel
M. Adriatico Street, Ermita, Manila
from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

KSEARCH
ASIA CONSULTING, INC

Career Breakthrough Opportunities

Our client - a highly dynamic and growing organization with a value-based culture, regional / global operation, multi-cultural customer base, and empowered workforce – **has urgent need for highly motivated people for its Retail Operations business group supporting our Asia Pacific region, specifically Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Philippines, and South Africa.**

I. Desktop & Applications Support Analyst (DASA)

Responsibilities:
- Manage the organization's standard PC image or operating environment throughout the Retail Operations in the Asia Pacific region
- Define policies, standards, and best practices of the PC image
- Develop updated installation packages for applications included in the standard operating environment
- Document configuration and installation instructions of the applications
- Communicate and schedule PC image upgrades
- Organize and participate in testing the PC image to ensure that it is stable, functional, and can support the applications
- Provide support in resolving PC image issues
- Perform Application Administrator tasks such as adding new users and changing system configuration

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology (or its equivalent)
- Extensive experience and knowledge of Windows XP Professional and Office XP / 2003
- Five years experience in planning, designing, implementing, and supporting distributed computing infrastructure (e.g. desktop systems, server systems, application deployment and support)
- Substantial experience in creating and maintaining process documentation

II. Application Support Analyst (ASA)

Responsibilities:
- Provide assistance in resolving system problems relating to all of the Asia Pacific internal technical business support systems, interfaces, and processes (e.g. Back Office, Head Office, and Point of Sales systems)
- Train users on the usage of business support systems
- Perform Application Administration tasks for business support systems
- Ensure that corporate internal controls are being implemented
- Establish documentation and maintenance of policies on internal controls
- Assist in the evaluation and documentation of system administration and operational processes
- Build and maintain expertise in new hardware, software, and systems as these are deployed to the customers

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology (or its equivalent)
- Two to five years experience in business applications support
- One to three years experience in Retail Systems is preferred
- Familiarity with networking technologies
- Experience in database management (Oracle and Microsoft SQL) and documentation will have an advantage

III. Retail Operation Center (ROC) Hotline Team Leader

Responsibilities:
- Provide assistance in the team's task planning and administration
- Document and maintain Hotline procedures, contacts, and references
- Monitor, highlight, and record frequently asked queries
- Log calls and perform first level problem analysis and resolution
- Monitor the status of problems and closely partner with other support groups regarding the problem's status.
- Generates reports regarding Hotline services

Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree
- Solid experience with user/customer support
- Experience in leading and developing a team
- Experience in Microsoft Office applications and other PC-based systems

IV. Retail Operation Center (ROC) Hotline Assistant

Responsibilities:
- Log calls and perform problem analysis and resolution of system queries
- Monitor the status of problems and closely partner with other support groups regarding the problem status until its resolution
- Generates reports regarding the Hotline services

Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree
- Solid experience with user/customer support
- Experience in Microsoft Office applications and other PC-based systems

V. Test and Integration Team Leader (T&ITL)

Responsibilities:
- Manage the Test and Integration Laboratory by planning and prioritizing system tests
- Maintain the integrity of the testing process and ensure that the tested hardware and software items are properly integrated with other systems
- Establish metrics to measure customer satisfaction with the services of the Test and Integration Laboratory
- Build the capability of the laboratory to increase the scope of production systems that can be tested and supported
- Maintain and publish an overall test schedule

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Science, or Engineering
- Minimum of five years experience in software testing methodologies and procedures
- Minimum of two years experience in Quality Assurance work including the creation and execution of Test Plans of systems
- Minimum of two years experience in managing a team
- Experience in Retail Systems, particularly C-stores, is preferred
- Experience in documentation of Test Reports

VI. Test and Integration Specialists (T&IS)

Responsibilities:
- Develop, document, and execute test plans for new and existing Marketing System components
- Assist in piloting of tested systems by documenting processes and conducting training and orientation sessions
- Analyze issues that arise during pilot stage and assist in its resolutions
- Maintain an updated and comprehensive Test Catalogue
- Prepare and publish test results

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Science, or Engineering
- Experience in testing methodologies and procedures
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office applications
- Experience in documentation and training
- Experience in Retail Systems is preferred

The ideal candidates should be fluent in spoken and written English, proactive, results-oriented, and customer-focused. They must be team players, enjoy working with people of diverse cultural backgrounds, and willing to travel on an as-needed basis.

Challenging career opportunities and attractive compensation package await the successful candidates. Interested qualified applicants may send their resumés to KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o Mr. Ildefonso Chan at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to ichan@ksearchasia.com; fax at 893-6259.

Applications received before May 8, 2005 will have an advantage.

P. J. LHUILLIER
GROUP OF COMPANIES

P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies, a dynamic business company engaged in financial services, retail and trade, and sports recreation, is inviting qualified and competent candidates to fill in the **Business Development Supervisor** position.

Business Development Supervisor

- Graduate of any business-related course
- With at least two (2) years experience in a related field
- Preferably with good business network connections

Interested individuals may send or handcarry their resumé recent 2X2 photo, and photocopy of Transcript of Records, Diploma and certificate of graduation, NBI Clearance, Police Clearance, Barangay Clearance, letter of application to:

MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Personnel & Organizational Development Division
3/F PJL Corporate Centre, 1782 Nicanor Garcia cor. Candelaria Sts.,
Makati City 1200
You may also email your applications to **mpr_podd@pjlhuillier.com**
or aafunggol@pjlhuillier.com.

YOU will change the way people ________.

You have ideas, and you're not afraid to use them. Which is just what we're looking for. No company offers more opportunities for achievement than HP. We help our customers fulfill their potential by providing an environment where you're empowered, encouraged, and inspired to do the best work of your life. Visit our website and discover a place where the work you do can make anything possible.

We are currently recruiting for certified applicants in SAP, Oracle, Java, Unix, ITIL, PMI and Siebel.

Account Services Manager

Ref: 878429

Location: Makati City, Philippines

As the key builder of customer relationships, you will work with the sales team to create new business and develop, present and structure solutions with potential outsourcing clients. You will direct and manage the analysis, design, proposal, implementation and ongoing delivery for an assigned account, ensuring its profitability, revenue performance, and customer satisfaction/loyalty.

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in Computer Science, Electrical/Computer Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 6 years of experience in managing complex IT projects.
- Broad technology knowledge (UNIX, NT, Networking, Open Systems, Internet, Data Warehousing)
- Demonstrable business, customer and project management skills.
- Excellent leadership, analytical, communication and presentation skills.
- Possess a driver's license, and willing to travel.

SAP Project Manager

Ref: 881941

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will help customers to define and implement complex integrated solutions that optimize their technology to support and grow their business. Working hand in hand with our sales force and other specialists, you will assess current and future technical and business needs to build and present demonstrably best value solutions and partnering services. Having made the convincing case, you will then have overall authority for the costing, scheduling, planning and tracking, terms and conditions, and risk management of the project through its entire life cycle.

- At least 5 years of experience in SAP projects.
- PMI certification is a plus.
- Exposure and knowledge of SAP project management methodology, including commercial, technical and legal issues.
- Domain expertise in a particular business area is ideal.
- Excellent leadership, communication, negotiation and influencing skills.

SAP Basis Support Specialist

Ref: 872649

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for the overall installation, configuration and administration of large scale global and regional SAP systems. You will plan, execute and follow up on SAP projects under your charge, and provide proactive support, through effective capacity planning and change management. You will also provide reactive support for customers, and introduce measures to reduce reactive work.

- Background in Computer Science or equivalent.
- At least 3 years of hands-on experience in SAP Basis administration on Oracle/HP Unix platform.
- An independent worker with good analytical thinking and strong troubleshooting skills.
- Good customer handling, communication and documentation skills.
- Fluency in English.

SAP Product Specialist

Ref: 873146

Location: Makati City, Philippines

As part of the HP Application Services' global network of SAP experts, serving both global and regional accounts for HP, you will work with customers to prototype current business processes to SAP solutions, and design and develop new solutions to address any gaps between business requirements and the solution set. You will also conduct system testing and business acceptance testing to ensure design specifications.

- At least 2 years of SAP R3/APO implementation, development or support experience in Materials Management, Production Planning, Sales and Distribution, Financials, APO, SRM, ABAP, or CRM.
- SAP, ITIL or PMI certification is a definite advantage.
- Systems implementation experience across project life cycle preferred.
- Excellent leadership and communication skills.

SAP BW Support Specialist

Ref: 871911

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be accountable for the overall Level II end-to-end 24x7 Service Delivery for Global SAP BW Systems, and will provide support for the European/American business, which is part of a Global Delivery team. Your responsibilities include ongoing Incident, Problem and Change Management for a defined set of Supply Chain SAP BW applications supporting one of HP's global customers.

- Experience in SAP Supply Chain applications, ideally in the SAP R/3, BW or SAP Planning operations.
- Knowledge of service management processes (Incident, Problem, Change and Service Level Management).
- Strong customer-service orientation, and problem solving skills for technical and process related issues.
- Excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Willing to travel.

AFR Support Specialist/Project Resource

Ref: 877805

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be assigned to provide first level support for the AFRS team, and will work directly with the customers to address issues and requests based on business need and within agreed Service Levels. You will also monitor supported systems and critical transactions to ensure integrity of systems at all times, as well as ensure that User Master Records are properly configured. For the Project Resource position, you will be involved in SAP FI/CO implementations/development.

- Bachelor's degree in IT/Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 1 year of experience in SAP or ABAP Debugging and Programming.
- Strong accounting and financial background.
- A team player with good communication skills and customer attitude.

ITO Support Specialist (Network)

Ref: 867730

Location: Makati Philippines

Working on problems/projects of moderately complex scope, you will exercise independent judgment within defined practices and procedures to determine appropriate action. Responsibilities include providing first level support for data network infrastructure, voice network infrastructure, Windows servers, and deskside support for internal and outsourcing customers. You will also provide account delivery management for outsourcing customers, and presales support to the Managed Services business development team.

- Degree in Computing or equivalent.
- Presales experience is advantageous.
- Basic project management, communication and analytical skills required.
- Comprehensive business, technical or functional knowledge, and excellent knowledge of the IT environment and its future trends.
- Strong technical skills, flexibility and resourcefulness.

Pre-Sales Solution Architect

Ref: 858576

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for creating buying preference for server and storage products with technical influencers, decision makers and partners. You will assume a technical leadership role with aligned Sales Specialists for all server solution opportunities in both Named Accounts and SMB customer space, and will serve as the interface to HP's Competitive Sales and Presales organization to engage appropriate resources throughout the sales cycle.

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 3 years of technical experience with in-depth understanding of HP-UX systems, servers and technical solutions.
- Software development knowledge is advantageous.
- A team player with strong sales and negotiation skills, as well as excellent presentation and communication skills.

SAP Enterprise Application Integration Solutions Engineer

Ref: 871145

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be part of a team responsible to deliver Integration Solutions to customers using the SAP Netweaver stack (i.e. ALE/RFC, Workflow, WebServices, SAP Exchange, JCO). You will be involved in the architecture, engineering, definition of standards and processes, training, consultancy and expert support for certain technologies to provide quality service to customers that fits into HP's and the customers' overall architecture and strategy.

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or equivalent.
- At least 2 years of SAP experience, preferably in application design with focus on interface development and SAP Basis.
- Strong analytical and technical engineering skills, and solid understanding of business processes and applications.
- Customer focused with strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.

Account Support Engineer

Ref: 874881

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for providing in-depth technical and technological expertise in your particular areas of focus. Initially, you will provide services to a limited number of small accounts to which you are personally assigned. Support becomes more and more specific as you move through the experience levels, right up to the highly complex design, scoping and implementation leadership of international and strategic accounts, working at highest level with customers and managing large projects.

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in a technical/scientific discipline.
- Product-oriented certificate (e.g. MCSE) preferred.
- Broad technology knowledge (UNIX, NT) and knowledge management skills, such as creation and re-use of intellectual capital.
- A team player with excellent communication skills and analytical problem-solving skills.

Desktop Software Management Web and Database Developer

Ref: 878571

Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for the design, development and maintenance of portals, workflow solutions, tools, utilities, and databases related to the software integration and deployment service of HP Managed Services for a key global account. You will also be involved in application solution refresh and development to support commercialization and business process reengineering.

- Technical experience, skills and knowledge in Web design and development (html, java, and ASP.NET), database design and development (SQL and Access), development on Lotus Notes, and other programming languages.
- Background in working with regional/global teams is an advantage.
- Strong problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills.

To apply to the jobs listed above, please submit your information in our streamlined online application form in the "how to apply" section of

www.hp.com/go/jobs

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MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS

OUR CLIENT, A WELL KNOWN EUROPEAN CONTRACTOR, IS IN NEED OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO FILL THE POSITIONS FOR THEIR VARIOUS PROJECTS WORLDWIDE

FOR OFFSHORE PROJECTS

*** SAFETY OFFICER**

- BS Engineering graduate, minimum of 5 years as Safety Officer/Manager in onshore/offshore Oil & Gas projects. Able to facilitate preparation of Jobs Safety Analysis (JSA) and conducting toolbox meeting and can promote safety awareness/safety culture to all personnel. Able to perform HLO activities when required and assist in preparing a Permit to Work. With knowledge of inspection of emergency and lifesaving equipment. Computer literate and good command of English -oral, writing, & reading. Age 45 years below. **Preference will be given to candidates with valid Passport Seaman's Book, BSC """"URGENT""""**

*** OFFSHORE ELECTRICIAN (urgent ... urgent)**

- B.S. ECE / EE or Technical /vocational graduate with a minimum of 3 years experience in offshore on board Derrick Laying barge or sea going vessels. Familiar with trouble shooting of motor controls, hydraulic control systems and PC board. Good command of English - writing, oral & reading. Age 35 years below

*** ELECTRONIC ENGINEER (urgent ... urgent)**

- B.S. ECE or Technical /vocational graduate with a minimum of 3 years experience in offshore projects particularly in pipelaying and installation of fixed platform. Must have a knowledge in main power distribution, DC drives, Programmable Control (PLC) and networking skills in Microsoft environment. Age 35 years below.

*** STOREKEEPER / WAREHOUSEMAN**

College graduate with a minimum of 3 years experience as offshore worker in pipelaying and jacket installation for Oil & Gas industry or in sea going vessels. With knowledge in repair of small tools/equipments for construction. Computer literate. Can operate the general store & its related administration efficiently. Can provide protection & preservation of stored materials. Age 45 years below. **Preference will be given to candidates with valid Passport Seaman's Book, BSC """"URGENT""""**

- WELDING INSPECTOR - CSWIP 3.1/3.2
- CHIEF COOK
- DECK MECHANIC
- DOCUMENT CONTROLLER (TECHNICAL WRITER)
- CRAWLER CRANE OPERATOR - 150 - 300 Tons
- PAINTER / SANDBLASTER

All applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience in offshore pipelaying and installation of fixed platform. Age 45 years below. **Preference will be given to candidates with valid Passport, Seaman's Book, Basic Safety Course (BSC) *** urgent *****

FOR ONSHORE PROJECTS

*** STEEL FABRICATOR (urgent ... urgent)**

> College level or Technical graduate with minimum of 5 years experience in steel fabrication. Ability to layout, fit-up and assemble components for structural steel and/or pressure vessels such as; overland conveyor system, ground module, platforms, marine industry structures, etc.. Able to understand and interpret Shop Drawings. Good command in English - reading, oral & writing. Age 45 years below.

*** LINEMAN / ELECTRICIAN (urgent ... urgent)**

> College level (BSEE/BSECE) or Technical graduate with minimum of 5 years experience in reconstruction and maintenance of live overhead lines and high voltage electrical distribution equipments. Able to read and interpret system plans / sketches including computer based plans and mapping systems. Good command in English - reading, oral & writing. Age 45 years below.

- HEAVY LIFT SUPERVISOR
- CHIEF RIGGER
- MECHANICAL ENGINEER
- COATING SPECIALIST
- IT PERSONNEL – for software development and implementation as well as network support
- GAS & DIESEL MECHANIC
- MINING ENGINEER – experience in specific software packages – underground and open cut mining
- *CAMP MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL* – Gardener / Landscaper / Electrician / A/C Technician
- TUG MASTER/SKIPPER (MAJOR PATRON)
- HVAC TECHNICIAN
- MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER
- HANDLING DEPT COORDINATOR
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN
- ACCOUNTANT – software implementation, financial and management accounting
- MACHINIST / CNC OPERATOR
- GEOLOGIST – experience in mining industry
- AUTOCAD OPERATOR – experience in process plant of oil/gas and/or mining industry
- COOK
- REFRIGERATION & AIRCON TECHNICIAN

FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

- ACCOUNT/RECRUITMENT OFFICER
- DOCUMENTATION/PROCESSING SUPERVISOR•LIAISON OFFICER
- DOCUMENTATION/PROCESSING ASST.

All applicants must have at least 5 years experience in their respective field

Interested applicants are requested to send their resumé to mra@mits-dcl.com.ph. Qualified offshore/onshore candidates should bring along the following: resumé, picture, NBI, employment cert, copies of passport & SB's (if available) when called for interview. For inquiries call: 890-7885 or 86. Contact Person: *Raymond Lopez*

MANPOWER RESOURCES OF ASIA, INC.
"POEA HALL OF FAME AND AWARD OF EXCELLENCE"
A NON-FEE CHARGING AGENCY • LICENCE NO.: 256-LB-071398-R
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tyler (Owned and operated by Republic Retailers)

is looking for:

- **I.T. MANAGER**
- **I.T. PROGRAMMER**
- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Job Summary

Working under the General Manager, attends to their needs, schedules, meetings, personal matters, communication, and confidential information, as well as other duties assigned.

- **ACCOUNTANT**

Job Summary

Performs professional accounting work, which includes check voucher preparation, preparing petty cash fund, purchasing of supplies, monitoring and filing of accounting documents, preparation of reports and other forms for government agencies, and performs related work as required.

- **STORE SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF (STORE FRONTLINER)**

Job Summary

Reports to the Store Operations Manager, is responsible for in-store selling, organizing, communicating, knowing and marketing of products through exceptional customer service, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers.

Job Requirements

- College degree or customer service experience in the retail, restaurant or hotel industry
- Willing and able to work on weekends and holidays
- Ability to deliver super-premium customer service
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to work in a fast-paced and changing environment
- Strong problem-solving and interpersonal skills
- Effective oral communication skills
- Ability to learn new concepts and information quickly and concisely
- Willingness to learn

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY:

- Go to www.republicretailers.com
  OR
- Get a Recruitment Brochure & Application Form from any of our stores: 2/F, Florietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, or 1st Level Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Driver corner Estrella St., Makati City, or 2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

(Only shortlisted applicants who have filled up an Application Form will be contacted.)

For Immediate Hiring

A reputable company engaged in distribution of various electrical materials is in need of qualified:

Sales Personnel/Representative

Qualification:

☐ Male or Female, not over 30 years old
☐ College graduate preferably
Marketing graduate or Electrical Engineering Graduate
☐ Self motivated and reliable
☐ With pleasing personality and good communication skills

Please submit detailed resumé to:

66 9th Avenue (East), Corner 2nd Street,
Grace Park, Caloocan City
Tel. No. 361-4928, 365-8104

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

GRAPHIC ARTIST *HIGH SALARY*

- Male / Female; 20 yrs or above
- Graduate of a 4 yr computer graphics course
- Proficient in PHOTOSHOP / COREL DRAW / ILLUSTRATOR / FREEHAND
- Creative & able to design ads / poster concepts
- Experience in Large Format Printing an advantage

COMMISSION

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male / Female; 21 yrs or above
- Graduate of a Business Management or any related course
- Fluent in English
- Must possess good oral and communication skills
- Willing to do field work
- Sales experience an advantage

BONUS

Pls send your resumes with photos to:
General Manager
#12-D Doña J. Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Q.C.
Tel: 412-8521 bigonprints@yahoo.com

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iWebmasters
OFFSHORE STAFF LEASING SERVICES

iWebmasters.com is a startup programmer and design staff leasing company that is **always** hiring the best programmers, creative designers and writers to build cutting edge websites for our clients abroad. We have the clients. You have the skills. Let's talk. Come join our fast growing team of professionals.

PHP / MYSQL DEVELOPER (5 years exp)

- Advanced object oriented programming
- MySQL database functions
- Ability to read and edit existing code
- Experience with design patterns (especially Model-View-Controller) an asset
- Beginner to Intermediate knowledge of Linux & FreeBSD from the command line
- Knowledge of statistics and website traffic terminology (raw hits, uniques, conversion ratios, etc.)
- Zend Certification Test for PHP is an advantage

C / C++ DEVELOPER

- At least 5 years of coding and application system design.
- Expert in C/C++ programming at server end.
- Hands on Linux server shell programming.
- Very familiar with PHP coding and MySQL database design. Keep database design with high performance is the key
- Experience in program performance tuning and optimization.
- Search engine system design experience, such as indexing.

VISUAL C++ DEVELOPER

- Excellent in, At least 5 years of, windows programming with Microsoft Visual C++ 6.0
- strong programming background with COM, ATL
- working experience in Microsoft Visual Studio.Net
- at least 5 years of web development experience with PHP, MySQL and HTML, JAVASCRIPT,XML
- experience in Linux system and apache server.
- Familiar with all windows operation system, like windows xp, windows 2000, windows 98.
- knowledge of the difference from Microsoft Internet Explorer, Have knowledge of other browsers, like Netscape, FireFox.
- Familiar with IE browser help object.

LINUX and NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS

- 5+ years LINUX Administrator Experience Required
- Fedora Red Hat 2.6 Experience preferred
- Apache 2.0+ (at least 1.3.x required)
- Tomcat 5.x (at least 4.x required)
- MySQL 4.1.x a plus
- Firewall configuration
- Shell/Perl scripting

WEB GRAPHIC DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS

Proficient in the following skills:

- HTML, CSS, XML, DHTML
- Adobe Photoshop, Premiere, Image Ready
- Macromedia Dreamweaver MX , Flash MX
- Macromedia Flash MX
- Apache/IIS
- Expert in Company Logo
- PHP / MySQL

FLASH DEVELOPERS

- Macromedia Flash MX 2004
- Actionscript 2.0 with *solid* Object-Oriented experience (Programmers are needed, not animators)
- Understanding of XMLSocket, and how to extend it Familiarity Preferred:
- Undocumented Flash methods, including reflection, CVS

Bonus- Know Colin Moock

PERL DEVELOPERS

- Expert level Perl development skills, in a structured development environment
- CVS experience and general knowledge.
- Intermediate PHP skills - ability to read and understand currently deployed PHP code a must.
- Working knowledge of MySQL and PostgreSQL
- Basic HTML and CSS skills
- Basic working knowledge of Javascript
- Basic networking knowledge, such as Classless Interdomain Routing (CIDR), ping, udp, tcp, etc.
- College CS degree or equivalent work experience
- Familiarity with MVC application design and architecture
- Familiarity with Template Toolkit

All Positions require excellent language and communication skills. Qualified applicants should send their resumé to: normanb@iwebmasters.com or visit us:

OPEN INTERVIEWS
Monday to Friday 9am-12pm & 2pm-5pm
EVENING HOURS
Tuesday and Thursday 7pm-9pm
(PLEASE BRING YOUR PORTFOLIO)

Unit 807 Antel 2000 Corp. Offices, 121 Valero St., Makati City
Telephone no. 750-0577

NEW ZEALAND

NO Show Money! Quick to process

- Graduate of 4-year Course
- With 2 years Work experience
- NO Job Offer required!
- Waiting Period 9 Months Maximum
- Final Interview Accommodation in Bangkok
- Pasmark 100 pts, will increase by June 2005
- ACT NOW, BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!

Be an Immigrant!

FREE INFO SEMINARS

Ortigas Center	- Monday to Friday 2 PM, Saturday 10AM only
Santiago City	- May 6, Friday 5 PM, Craig Plaza Hotel
Cauayan Isabela	- May 7, Saturday 8 AM, Amity Hotel

Please CALL or TEXT for Seat reservation:
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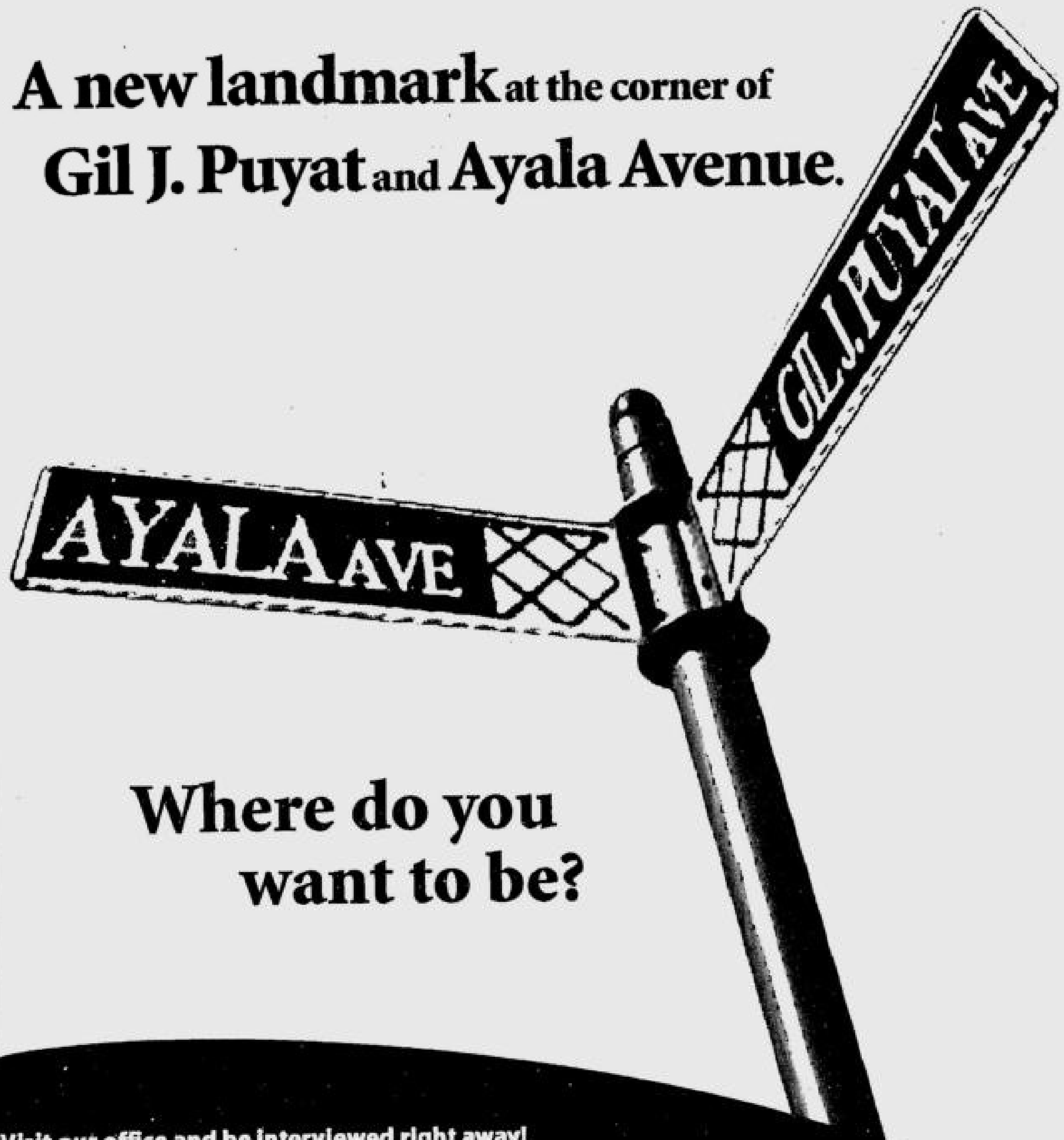

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- Team Supervisors (MO-TS-PDI)

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- Sales Associate (MS-SA-PDI)

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- HR Manager (Cebu) (CHR-HRM-PDI)
- Recruitment Manager (MHR-RM-PDI)
- Employee Relations Officer (MHR-ERO-PDI)

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Information Technology
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- SQL Server Database Administrator (MIT-DBA-PDI)
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Male/Female, CPA, preferable with MBA, at least 3 yrs. of experience in the same capacity from the food/hospitality industry.

TRAINING OFFICER & TRAINING SUPERVISOR
Male/Female, 25-30 yrs. old, with at least 5 yrs. of experience, preferably exposed in restaurant/café operations. Competent in conducting TNA, designing, implementing and evaluating training programs.

SENIOR & JUNIOR INTERNAL AUDITOR
Male/Female, 25-30 yrs. old, preferably with 2-3 yrs. experience in Internal Audit.

ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Female, 24-28 yrs old, graduate of Accountancy, must be knowledgeable in Accounting procedures and background in Administrative work.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Female, 22-25yrs. old. Management related course, 1 yr. experience in the same capacity.

PAYROLL ASSISTANT
Female, 23-27 yrs. old, graduate of Accountancy, preferably at least 2 yrs. experience in handling payroll accounts.

MAINTENANCE OFFICER
Male, 28-32 yrs. old, Engineering graduate, preferably knows how to handle maintenance concerns, control of in/out transactions of the Maintenance Dept. and inventory of assets.

STORE SUPERVISORS/MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Male (5'7) or Female (5'3); 25-30 years old, preferably single; graduate of HRM or a Business course; fluent in oral and written English; pleasing personality with good social and people skills; must have at least 2 years experience in similar capacity; knowledge in PnL an advantage.

CAFÉ SERVICES ASSISTANT
Male/Female 25-28 yrs old. HRM or Business Management graduate with 1 yr. experience in food/hospitality industry.

CASHIERS
Female (5'3), 21-24 years old, preferably single, college graduate, fluent in English, clear and fair complexion, pleasing personality with good people and social skills.

SERVICE CREW
Male (5'7) 21-25 years old, preferably single, at least 2 years in college, fluent in English, clear and fair complexion, pleasing personality with good people and social skills.

DRIVER/DELIVERY
Male, 21-25 yrs. old, at least high school graduate, well-built, knows how to drive and with valid Professional Driver's License.

Please bring your resume with 2 x 2 photo and contact numbers from Monday to Friday at #5 Pines cor. Sheridan St. Mandaluyong City or send thru e-mail at hrd@figarocoffee.com

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Graduate of accountancy w/ at least 2-3 yrs. relevant work experience. Highly computer literate. Can meet deadlines, and can, work under pressure. People oriented, aggressive. analytical & assertive. Not over 35 yrs. old.

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Graduate of BS Psychology or any 4 years course w/ at least 2-3 yrs. relevant work exp. Must be smart, assertive, organized & people oriented, can meet deadlines & work under pressure. Highly computer literate, must have sense of responsibility & maturity. Not over 35 yrs. old.

MARKETING MANAGER / ASST.
M/F with good track record in mktg. of car services & accs. is an edge but not nec. Pleasing personality, aggressive & hardworking. Must have P.R. skills, proficient in oral & written communication, good interpersonal skills & computer literate. Not over 35 yrs. old.

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We are looking for dynamic, committed and experienced individuals to join the Philippines-based sales team for our products as:

A) Sales Manager, Surgical

The Job:
- Establish and achieve assigned organizational sales objectives
- Formulate and implement sales strategies
- Prepare and present territorial sales performance and competitive trends

Requirements:
- Basic Degree in any discipline
- At least 5 years experience in sales, marketing & business development
- Knowledge in sales & distribution of medical or technical products
- Tactful with strong negotiation, interpersonal and motivational skills
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Must possess own car and willing to travel

B) Application Specialist

The Job:
- Deliver technical expertise for analytical solutions to customers
- Provide on-site application support for medical equipment
- Conduct technical training and product demonstrations
- Work closely with manufacturing to resolve customer technical issues
- Work with Sales Team to support organizational sales objectives

Requirements:
- Diploma/Basic Degree in Engineering
- Good analytical skill and troubleshooting of technical issues
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Must possess own car and willing to travel

C) Sales Representatives, Surgical

The Job:
- Meet or exceed assigned personal sales objectives
- Plan and establish effective territorial call cycle
- Build up good relationship with key customers and distributors
- Report routinely key competitor and customer trends to improve territory management

Requirements:
- Basic Degree in any discipline / and or relevant experience and qualifications
- Team player with self-motivation, and perseverance towards achieving results
- Excellent selling and customer service skills
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Must possess own car and willing to travel
- Fresh graduate are welcomed to apply

A competitive remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience will be offered to the right candidate. Interested applicants please apply in confidence with resume, passport picture, and transcript of records to:

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We invite qualified applicants to join our company in our expansion program.

1. Sales Engineer for GSM/GPRS/3G

Main Responsibilities

- Planning competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats, for the accounts together with the Account Manager.
- Supporting pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering customer technical presentation and demonstration
- Marketing Huawei product and network concept and solutions
- Supporting all product promotion related activities
- Developing and managing regional channel partners of data communications products and establish regional channel system (Product Manager of Data Communication).

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer Science or relevant area
- Minimum 2 years experience in related field
- Solid technical background of Telecommunications
- Planning and presentation delivering skills
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English.

2. Survey& Design Engineer

Main Responsibility:

- Study and understand BOQ (Bill of Quanity) that is created by marketing section.
- Study and understand NETWORK DIAGRAM that is designed by marketing section.
- Prepare Survey Plan, on-site Survey Documentation and Survey Tools after obtain Requisition for Site Survey which launched from marketing section.
- Perform On-site Survey in Capital, Provinces, City and Small town, Output draft of Layout drawing and Site Survey Report.
- Create , Design and Edit Engineering Drawing (AutoCAD) such as Floor Layout, Equipment Layout Cable Routing Layout etc.
- Plan, Cooperate, Manage, Supervise, Training, Guide and Inspect Sub-contractors to do On-site Survey , Task Progress , Survey Report and Engineering Drawing in the middle & large scale project.
- Carefully and seriously Review Site Survey Report submitted by Product Line Engineer and Local Sub-contractors.
- Integrate and Fill in Huawei Standard Survey Report to H/Q Manufacturer in China.
- Cooperate with Project Team and relevant department staff during equipment manufacture , equipment installation and project implementation period.

Requirements:

- At least Bachelor Degree in Telecommunication Engineering and related fields.
- More than 2-3 years of experience on Telecom Engineering is preferred and top-priority.
- Good English ability in the Reading, Writing and Conversation.
- Good Consciousness of cooperation with Product Manager, Product Engineers, Project Teams and Local Sub-contractors or Agent.
- Good Consciousness of Services to Customer
- Background knowledge in the Wireless Network (GSM, GPRS, CDMA,WCDMA), Fixed Network (Narrowband SWITCHING, AN, DATACOM, BROADBAND), Transmission Network (DWDM, SDH, PDH), and Service and Software (INTELLIGENT NETWORK, Value-added) will be advantaged.
- Good skill in software: Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, Microsoft Project, Power Point.
- Able to travel to whole Capital, Provinces, City and Small Town, even Overseas if any.

3. Bidding Design Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- To complete overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform
- Provide bidding support to overseas projects in respect of survey design and ensure smooth engineering survey and construction
- Assist in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely report various investigation data and provide fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system

Main Requirements:

- Bachelor degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, Computer or related area.
- At least 3 years of related systems and project engineering experience in the telecommunications environment.
- Experience in both a service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills.
- Heavy business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required.
- Ability to converse in Mandarin will be an added advantage.

4. Radio Network Planning & Radio Network Optimization Engineer

Responsibilities and main tasks:

- Be responsible for 2G&3G radio network design and radio network performance improvement service delivery.
- Be responsible for technical marketing and sales support of network and technology consulting services.
- Be response radio network evaluate.
- Be responsible network parameters design.
- Be responsible optimization.

Requirement:

- University degree or above in electronic / telecommunications engineering, science or a relevant area.
- Fluent in English
- At least 2 years working experience in GSM or CDMA, WCDMA is preferred.
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations.
- Good Communication skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment.
- Self-motivated, customer oriented

5. GSM/CDMA Technical Support Engineer

Responsibilities and main tasks:

- Solve the GSM network technical problem
- Daily maintenance of responsible GSM/CDMA network
- Implementation of GSM or CDMA network engineering

Requirement:

- College or above education background in telecom or electronics
- At least 1 year experience in electric or telecom engineering area
- Good command in English
- Teamwork spirit with enthusiasm
- Good customer handling skills
- Good Computer knowledge and experience with GSM or CDMA networking are required.

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Date : April 30, 2005
Time : 1:00 pm -
Venue: Liceo de Cagayan University
Rodelsa Hall
Rodolfo N. Pelaez Blvd.
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Contact us at:
(088) 856 - 1376
(0919) 616 - 8086

CEBU CITY
Date : May 7, 2005
Time : 3:00 pm
Venue: SM Conference Center
Hall A/B, 3rd Level, SM Cebu
Reclamation Area, Cebu City
Contact us at:
(032) 412 - 4648 to 49
(0918) 551 - 3913

ILOILO CITY
Date : May 14, 2005
Time : 1:00 pm
Venue: CAP Auditorium
General Luna Street
Iloilo City
Contact us at:
(033) 320 - 6847
(0917) 303 - 1918

Or visit the seminar webpage at: www.eworldstaffing.com/teachUS

E-WORLD RESOURCE CENTERS, INC.

Suite 2106 Prestige Tower
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

5/F, Rm. 303, TTK Tower
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- Trustworthy, honest & must have high levels of integrity
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- Proficient in computer office applications.

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- At least 5 years managerial experience from a retail chain.
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Interested and qualified candidates may forward their comprehensive resume (NOT MORE THAN TWO [2] PAGES) with complete salary history in confidence to:

The Corporate Human Resources Manager
PSMT Philippines, Inc.
32nd St.,5th Ave.,Fort Bonifacio,Global City,Taguig,MM.
Fax : 888-0689 , E-mail : ecorral@pricesmart.com

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Qualifications :

- College Graduate, preferably in Engineering or Business Management
- With 3-4 years experience in a supervisory capacity
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- Good analytical and communication skills
- Strong leadership and negotiation skills
- SAP exposure would be an advantage

Interested applicants may send their resume to
Novartis Healthcare Philippines, Inc.
2/F Asian Reinsurance Bldg.
Gamboa cor. Salcedo Street
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novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com

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Account Manager (1)

- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application software
- Good in oral and written communication
- Willing to work overtime
- Willing to take on field work
- With pleasing & outgoing personality
- Previous sales experience a plus but not required

Sales Assistant (1)

- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application softwares
- Good in oral and written communication

Technical Support / Product Engineer (1)

- Male, at least 20 years of age
- Bachelor's Degree in any Engineering Field
- With good analytical skills
- Can communicate well
- Willing to work overtime and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned out of town
- Programming skills in VBA and Java preferable
- Knowledge in Project Management Software Tools (e.g MS Project, Primavera) preferable, but not required

Competitive compensation package inclusive of basic salary, allowance, incentives and commissions for sales positions. Interested parties are requested to send their resumés with photo to :

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Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
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Please bring your resume with 2x2 picture to:
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TEL NO. 632-0353/ 633-0468 TELEFAX: 632-0186

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Qualifications:

- A minimum age of 25 years old.
- Must be Born Again Christian.
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Pls. report personally not later than May 2, 2005 & bring your biodata & certificates of employment

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1) EDITORIAL ASSISTANT FOR TEXTBOOKS (EA) who will coordinate with authors, artists and editors in textbook projects and other academic publications.

2) MARKETING ASSISTANT who will help in promoting books by writing press releases, making promotional peripherals, coordinating book events, etc.

Applicants must be:
Female, at least 21 years old, a college graduate (fresh graduates are welcome to apply), proficient in both verbal and written Filipino and English, computer literate, can work under pressure, comfortable with minimum pay (probationary period), can easily work with a team, and likes books.

Submit preliminary requirements not later than May 3, 2005 to **THE MANAGING EDITOR**, 8007-B Pioneer St., Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City 1603 (email: **pubdept@anvil.com.ph**). For online submissions, pls. email as inline text (no attachments, pls.) your resumé and photo.

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- Female, with pleasant voice
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- College graduate
- Computer literate

Please send a copy of your resume/bio-data
with passport-size photo to:

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ROVI MULTIPRODUCTS, INC. Is in need of the following qualified personnel for immediate employment.

- **Production Shift Supervisors**
  Must be an electrical or mechanical engineering graduate with experience in production or assembly line processes. Candidate will be assigned to supervise day or night shift operation and will be responsible in the implementation of safety guidelines and monitor laborers activities so that production targets are met. Preference will be given to those who are knowledgeable in 3 phase electric motors, pneumatics, hydraulics and those who have worked in the wood working industry.
- **Sales Manager**
  Must be experienced in sales in the construction industry. Will be responsible in setting up a sales team for area saturation to sell laminates, engineered wood and solid wood flooring. Candidate will report directly to the President of the company and will formulate and recommend the sales strategy that will be implemented to meet sales targets.
- **Lighting Engineers**
  Must be an Electrical Engineer with experience in the design of lighting for outdoor and interior use. Candidate will be sent abroad for training in the programming, installation and control of LED lighting in buildings.
- **Receptionist / Telephone Operator**
  Must be a graduate of a two year course and able to speak English proficiently. Will handle all incoming calls and coordinate with corresponding personnel doing outside work.
  Above candidates must be computer literate in MS Word, Excel at the minimum. Proficiency CADD is a must for Lighting Engineers.
- **Company Electricians**
  Must know building and equipment wiring installations. Must know how to trouble shoot and repair minor tools and equipment like electric drills, miter and bench saws, compressors, dust collector vacuums, etc.

Interested applicants may send their bio data either by email, fax, snal mail or apply in person at warehouse B-1 Lietz Industrial Complex, Edison Avenue, Barangay Sun Valley, Parañaque City, Metro Manila.
Email: roviapplicants@yahoo.com Fax: (02) 823 5203

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Bldg C-1 109 Compound, Arturo Drive
Bagumbayan, Taguig City
Tel #: (632) 839 2487 / 89 / 90
Fax #: (632) 838 3746

MARKETING MANAGER
- Minimum 10 years experienced of Petroleum Industry on Distribution of Equipment
- Fluent in English

INSIDE SALES MANAGER
- Minimum 10 years experienced of Petroleum Industry on Distribution of Equipment
- Fluent in English

Interested Parties may contact:
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Exec. Secretary
Tel #: (632) 839 2487 / 89 / 90
Fax #: (632) 838 3746
Email add: beverlybel@usa.com

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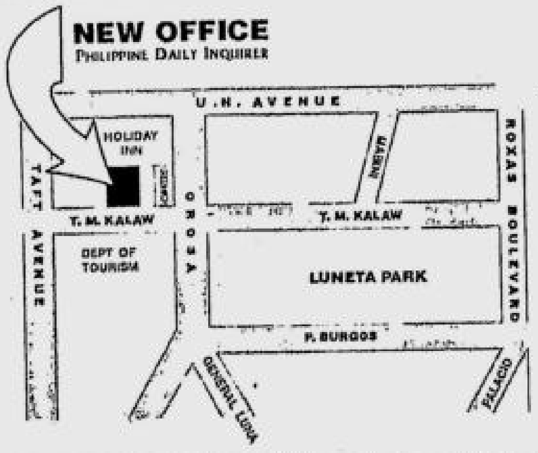
NEW OFFICE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
Nicanor Reyes (Morayta) Street, Manila
Computer Services Department

Announces openings for the following positions:

Help Desk & Administrative Section Head

Qualifications:
- graduate of any 4 year Computer course
- articulate and proficient in composing technical and user-level documentation
- proficient in the use of Windows and MS Office tools
- must have at least one year experience in a Help Desk or similar environment
- excellent health

LAN Application Support

Qualifications:
- graduate of any 4 year Computer course
- administer any of: Windows 2000, Linux, Hub switches, HP-UX and Networking
- must have at least 1 year related experience
- male, 24 to 28 years old
- good command of the English language
- excellent health

Programmers

Qualifications:
- graduate of any 4 year Computer course
- programming Skills in VB/ASP or PHP
- knowledge in any relational DBMS
- must have at least 2 years related experience
- male, 24 to 28 years old
- good command of the English language
- excellent health

Network Support Staff

Qualifications:
- graduate of any 4 year Computer course
- familiar with Hardware and Software troubleshooting
- must have at least 1 year related experience
- male, 24 to 28 years old
- good command of the English language
- excellent health

Please send letter of application, resume, copies of transcript of records, diploma, other credentials and photo to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
4th Floor, Administration Building
Far Eastern University
www.feu.edu.ph

Telephone number and fax: 735-0041
E-mail: jcnicer@yahoo.com

INQ7.net
A Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Company

INQ7.net, the Philippines' most visited news website, is looking for highly motivated individuals to fill in the following positions:

Account Manager
- ◆ Graduate of Bachelor's / College Degree in any field.
- ◆ At least 24 years of age.
- ◆ Aggressive and highly motivated to meet monthly sales quotas.
- ◆ With proven track record in corporate sales.
- ◆ Experience in dealing with advertising agencies an advantage.
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- ◆ Can deal with people in all levels of an organization.
- ◆ Has good command of the English language (both oral and written).
- ◆ Proficient in MS Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.
- ◆ With minimum of two (2) years' experience in sales preferred.

Web Developer / Programmer (Contractual)
- ◆ Graduate of Bachelor's / College Degree in Mathematics or Computer Science.
- ◆ Possesses the following technological skills: html, dhtml, css, xml, xhtml, wml; javascript; perl, php, coldfusion, asp; sql technologies.
- ◆ Knowledgeable in software development concepts, with experience in creating modularized technical solutions.
- ◆ Must have familiarity with Windows/Unix platforms.
- ◆ Must be a motivated learner.
- ◆ Can work under pressure and with minimal supervision.
- ◆ Experienced in creating detailed technical design specifications and in leading technical developers to develop, test, and launch the application.
- ◆ With minimum of two (2) years' experience in programming preferred.

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may send their applications to
INQ7 Interactive, Inc.
9/F Rufino Building, 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St.,
Makati City
or e-mail to **rriosa@inq7.net**

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SALES MANAGER
- with a proven track record
- very good on both written and spoken English
- knowledge in sales and distribution of technical products
- knows how to prepare and implement sales and operations budget.
- can formulate and implement sales strategies.
- willing to travel
- computer literate, can drive and with valid driver's license
- can function immediately after company and product orientation.
- college graduate. Preferably with some technical /scientific background
- with 2-5 years of work experience as sales manager

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES FOR NORTHERN LUZON AND MANILA
- male, 25 years old
- with pleasing personality
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- preferably with some basic knowledge in ophthalmology.
- must be independent, self starter, hardworking and very determined to excel in the field.
- can communicate well on both written and spoken English
- knowledge in computer and with a valid driver's license.
- willing to travel.
- Preferably with at least 2 years sales experience.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- female, 21-30 years old
- BS Accounting graduate
- Keen in details and high analytical skills
- Experience in general accounting procedures and cost accounting.
- With proficient business writing ability.
- Computer literate
- Can work with minimum supervision.

We offer good compensation package for the above vacancies plus commission for Sales Manager and Technical Sales Representatives. You may apply via email (microlabphils@attglobal.net) or you may send your application with I.D. picture, resumé, and transcript of records to:

HRD DEPT.
MICROLAB
2636 Tramo Line cor. Alvares St.
Pasay City
P.O. BOX 3765
MANILA

Previous applicants need not apply.

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NEEDS
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
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- College Graduate
- With pleasing personality
- Honest & Hardworking
- Good in oral & written English
- WILLING TO BE ASSIGNED ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pls. Apply in person in business attire with your application letter & resumé At 1708 Antel Global Corp. Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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***Axis Global Technologies, Inc.** is a leading IT distributor that provides value-added distribution of high-volume IT products in the areas of basic PC components such as microprocessors, magnetic and optical data storage, system boards, video cards and consumer electronics products. We are currently looking for talented, hardworking, self-motivated and result oriented individuals to join our team.*

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS
- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
- Male or Female, not more than 27 years old
- Must have interest and knowledge on consumer electronic products such as inks, media, notebooks
- Good communication and presentation skills, customer oriented and with strong leadership skills

SALES PROCESSING OFFICERS
- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
- Male or Female, not more than 25 years old
- Must have experience in data encoding
- Excellent communication and coordinating skills, detail oriented, well organized and systematic

JR. PRODUCT SPECIALIST
- Must be a graduate of Marketing, Communications, Business Management or any related course
- Male or Female, not more than 26 years old
- With previous experience in selling IT and telecommunication products
- Must be willing to do field work

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSISTANT
- Must be a graduate of any Business and IT related course.
- Must be female, not more than 25 years old.
- Preferably with 1 year experience in foreign supplier coordination.
- Detail oriented, assertive and with good oral and written communication skills.

ACCOUNTING OFFICER – PAYABLES
- Graduate of Finance/Accountancy/Banking or related course.
- Female, not more than 28 years old.
- With at least 2 years experience in Accounting, particularly in General Ledger and Accounts Payable

LOGISTICS COORDINATOR/PLANNER
- Graduate of Computer Science or Technical courses such as Engineering, CoE and other related courses
- Male (for Coordinator), Male or Female (for Planner), not more than 28 years old
- High analytical, problem analysis, coordination and project mgnt. skills
- Previous experience in the same or related field is an advantage.

TECHNICAL MARKETING ENGINEER
- Graduate of COE, ECE or any IT related course
- Male, not more than 28 years old
- Shall be responsible in conducting client presentations and product demos
- Shall also conduct sales and technical training for products being handled by the sales team.
- Willing to work on field and with excellent written and verbal communication skills

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER
- Graduate of BS CoE or ECE
- Male, not more than 28 years old
- Experienced in PC troubleshooting, or with a call center providing support for PC or notebooks

If you feel you meet the qualifications above, please send your resume, transcript of records, & 2X2 ID picture to hrdev@axisglobal.com or submit to our HR Department from Mondays through Saturdays, 9 am to 4 pm.

AXIS GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC
Human Resource Department
20 North Road cor. 3rd Ave., Cubao Quezon City

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Accounting Officers - preferably CPA
Finance Officer
IT/Technical Support Staff
Software Development Officer

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION PRODUCTION:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS
QA OFFICERS/TEAM LEADERS
OPERATIONS HEAD

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e-mail: hrd@mtcacademy.com / www.mtcacademy.com
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A foreign company engaged in the business of Marketing Business Services of Foreign Companies through telecommunications is in urgent need of:

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BASIC SALARY ++

Basic Responsibilities:
☐ General Marketing through telecommunications to prospective clients.

Qualifications:
☐ Male or Female 20-45 years old, work experience in Inbound or Outbound call centers and or customer service is an advantage. Must be confident, self-motivated and fluent in spoken English, must have excellent interpersonal skills and reasoning ability.

Initial interview shall be conducted on the phone, for initial screening please call.

0915-447-4567 Between 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Mon-Fri

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POEA - 132-LB-081304-PL
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CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (5)
- 15-20 YEARS OF EXP.
- Experience in Large complex structures, High rise Towers

PLANNING ENGINEER (4)
- Cost control in bldg. & infrastructure proj. / Primavera

ESTIMATOR/QUANTITY SURVEYOR (5)
- Capable of independently handling the Tendering, Pricing Cost Breakdown, Quantity Surveying

SITE ENGINEER (6)
- Capable of handling site independently on Structures & Finishing works

SAFETY ENGINEER (4)
- Capable of handling the QA/QC & Safety aspects
- ISO 9001 knowledge preferably

LAND SURVEYOR (6)
- Construction building, High rise Towers, Villas

AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) ENGINEER (2)
- 15 years and above in installation of central plants, cost estimation and material take off.

PLUMBING ENGINEER (2)
- 10 years and above exp. in technical office and construction, High rise Towers, Large complexes

MATERIAL ENGINEER (1)
- Knowledge in building materials, testing & Quality Procedures B-S/ ASTM Codes, Concrete & Steel Testing & Evaluation

PIPE AND A/C WELDERS (7)
A/C PIPE FITTER (7)
DUCT ERECTOR, FABRICATOR AND INSULATOR (20)
- Experience in HVAC system, High rise Towers and Industrial

QUALIFICATION: MINIMUM OF 7 YEARS EXPERIENCE

SHUTTERING CARPENTER (50)
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MASON (30)
QUALIFICATION: AT LEAST 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE/TRADE TEST CERT.

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GRADER OPERATOR (5) w/ TRADE TEST
TOWER CRANE ERECTION MECHANIC (6)
TOWER CRANE AUTO ELECTRICIAN (3)
MOBILE CRANE OPERATOR (4) w/ TRADE TEST
HEAVY EQUIPMENT HYDRAULIC MECHANIC (6)
HEAVY EQUIPMENT AUTO ELECTRICAL (5)
HEAVY TRUCK MECHANICS (6)
HEAVY TRUCK AUTO ELECTRICIANS (2)
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UNSKILLED LABOURS (50)
QUALIFICATION: HEALTHY & BELOW 35 YRS OLD

Pls. Apply personally & bring the ff: 2 sets of Resumé, 4 pcs 2x2 colored pictures, Diploma (high school/college), Copy of passport, NBI, Cert. of employment at:

A-M PHIL. PROFESSIONAL SRVS. CORP.
#34 MAYA ST. MARVILLE PARK I ANTIPOLO, CITY
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- ☐ Candidate must be a graduate of any Business Management course
- ☐ Not more than 35 years old
- ☐ With at least five (5) years managerial experience in handling Procurement, Materials Planning Control and Scheduling, Logistics and Warehousing
- ☐ Dynamic personality, detailed-oriented, systematic and highly dependable
- ☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills

WAREHOUSE MANAGER
- ☐ Male; not more than 35 years old
- ☐ S3I
- ☐ Graduate of any 4 year Business Management Course
- ☐ With at least three (3) years experience in warehousing system and inventory control
- ☐ Analytical, with strong leadership ability, aggressive and result-oriented
- ☐ Proficient with both oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Computer literate

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTIONS MANAGER
- ☐ Male/Female; not more than 35 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any 4 year Business Management Course
- ☐ Must be adept in all facets of system improvement of production and distributions covering product projections, delivery schedules, supply procurements and stockings and sanitation
- ☐ Must exhibit good interpersonal & people management skills; highly organized and can work under pressure

PRODUCTION MANAGER
- ☐ Male, not more than 35 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any 4 year Business Management Course
- ☐ With at least three (3) years relevant experience in Commissary/Factory (Food Business)
- ☐ Teamplayer and accustomed to work under pressure
- ☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Computer literate

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER
- ☐ Candidate must be a graduate of Advertising, Marketing or has proven track record in events management
- ☐ Not more than 33 years old
- ☐ With at least three (3) years in events management, managing sales and promotional activities preferably in quick service restaurant/food industry
- ☐ Must be creative, analytical, resourceful and able to come up with events working within the conservative budget
- ☐ Excellent communication and presentation skills

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- ☐ Female, not more than 28 years of age
- ☐ Graduate of any four (4) year business course (Preferably Management/Marketing/Secretarial or Office Administration)
- ☐ With at least 2 years experience in executive secretarial works
- ☐ Excellent in both oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Sales oriented, customer focused
- ☐ With comprehensive computer background

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person or send comprehensive resume with transcript of records, most recent ID picture, certificate / clearance(s) from previous employer to:

Personnel Department/733 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
(In front of Old Pepsi Plant)
E-mail address: hrd_job_ads@yahoo.com
Look for: Ms. Irma M. Victoria or Ms. Eya S. Palad

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Submit your resumé, Transcript of Records, Diploma & License to:
MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
JNCV Bldg. Pasig Blvd. Corner Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City

A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

Management Trainee
- Male, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Baking Plant Supervisor
- Male or Female, age 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry, Chemical Engineering
- Has a Certificate of Attendance from a Baker's Skills Training Course
- Knowledgeable in bakery ingredients and materials evaluation
- Highly skilled in the hands-on preparation and baking of biscuits, breads, cakes, cookies, pastries, and other specialty bakery items.
- With good skills in material control and warehousing.
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Quality Control / Research and Development Technician
- Male or Female, single, age 22 to 26 years old
- Computer literate, graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or Industrial Engineering
- At least 1 year experience in Quality Control / Quality Assurance and/or Research and Development work.
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Mechanical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Computer literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in machine troubleshooting, preventive maintenance and fabrication.

Electrical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Can supervise or lead a team.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Architectural Designer
- Graduate of B.S. Architecture
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Agriculturist/Agronomist
- Male/Female, at least 28 years old.
- Degree holder of B.S. Agronomy, or B.S. Agriculture major in Agronomy.
- Experienced in Root Crop Farm Supervision/Management, knowledgeable in tuber growing, pest control, post-harvest handling and storage.
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Interior Designer
- B.S. Interior Design graduate
- At least 2 years work experience in interior designing
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD 2000 or higher version
- Able to render perspective drawing
- Able to prepare bill of materials/project estimates
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Warehouse Supervisor
- College graduate
- At least 3 years experience in warehousing operation
- Willing to be assigned in Cavite.

Graphic Artist
- Degree in Fine Arts or Advertising
- Must be proficient in computer 2D graphics applications such as Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator/Freehand/CorelDraw and AutoCAD
- Preferably with experience in a creative job position

Accounting Clerk
- Female, single, age 22 to 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- With or without experience.

Telephone Operator / Receptionist
- Female, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills.

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:
HRD Manager, 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300
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Please indicate the position you are applying for.

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ENSEMBLE freeway solo salsa

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- * Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- * Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- * W/ experience or exposure in store operations & inventory mgmt,w/ strong organizational skills
- * W/artistic background,at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- * Mature, with leadership capabilities
- * Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

FASHION DESIGNER
- * Will be involved in design & dev't of ladies teen wear
- * W/ work experience in design or retail preferred
- * Will be involved in product sourcing & sampling
- * W/ strong organizational skills
- * Female, with course/s in Clothing Tech, Fine Arts Fashion Design & related courses
- * Submit portfolio of designs for teen wear w/ resumé

ASSISTANT EXPORT MERCHANDISER
- * Female, W/ Engineering or Garment Mfg. background below 35 yrs. old
- * Will assist in sourcing & monitoring of accessories for export order
- * Assist Head Merch. w/ sample dev't. & comm. w/ buyers
- * Responsible for ff. up status of booking, prod. & delivery

Send resumé with credentials or fax/e-mail to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)
996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com

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WEB DESIGNER

Designer will take responsibility for email creative design and production and site redesign. Be able to utilize results from analysis to drive design improvements. Strong knowledge of motivating customers on the web. Must be highly motivated, detail oriented, self-starter, can handle tight deadlines and simultaneous multiple projects.

Candidates must be proficient in:
- Adobe Photoshop
- Macromedia Flash
- HTML
- DHTML
- Java Script

To qualify, candidates must have:
- Two or more years web site development experience.
- Working knowledge of Internet functions, browsers, search engines and general Internet capabilities.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- The ability to pay strong attention to details.

Interested applicants may apply personally at TRI-ISYS INTERNET Head Office, 4/F AIC Center, Escolta St. cor. Nueva St., Binondo, Manila from Mondays thru Fridays, 9-11 am; or you may e-mail your application to career@tri-isys.com

www.tri-isys.com

WE ARE HIRING!

PROJECT COORDINATOR
- Male/Female, 2005 Graduates of Architecture
- Knowledgeable in CAD, Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator & Adobe Photoshop

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Female, 2005 Graduates of Psychology, Management and other business related course
- Computer-literate

Interested applicants may send resumé with latest 2x2 pictures & Transcript of Record to:

P.O. Box #13802
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WEBSITE: www.businesstrendsph.com

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ACCOUNTINTG CLERK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
SALES AUDIT SUPERVISOR
SECRETARY ENCODERS

- Female, college graduate
- Professional, efficient and hardworking
- Willing to work long and flexible hours

Compensation package would be commensurate to the work performance

EXPERIENCE IN YOUR FIELD IS AN ADVANTAGE

Please apply in person at 158 P. Sevilla St., between 6th & 7th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City. BRING RESUMÉ w/ 2X2 colored photo.

CLIENTLOGIC

Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

FOR MANILA:
Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives
Accountant
Network Engineer
Systems Administrator
Reports Specialist
IT Site Support Engineer
Systems Developer
Foreign Language Specialist (Spanish,French, Italian, German,Portuguese)

FOR BAGUIO:
Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives

Bring your resume with
° 2x2 picture
° SSS & TIN nos.

E-mail Applications:
° Indicate the position your applying for as the subject

my choice my career my growth

PASIG: Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) May 2 - 6 ° 22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO: Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) May 2 - 6 ° Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd., Baguio City

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LADIES WEAR BUYER
- Must have a passion for fashion and design, must be updated on the latest trends
- Must also have a background on product development.
- College graduate with at least 2 years experience as Buyer in a beauty, fashion or home store.
- Must be analytical, results oriented, and have good negotiating abilities.
- Excellent communication skills Computer literate.

MARKETING OFFICER
- The qualified applicant must be assertive and creative, can conceptualize and execute advertising, promotions and events for a fashion or home store.
- College graduate of Marketing or Mass Communications/Communication Arts with at least 2 years experience in retail advertising.
- Excellent communication skills. Computer literate.

DRUGSTORE BUYER
- Licensed Pharmacist, with exposure in purchasing medicines.
- Experience in a retail drugstore is an advantage.
- Female, preferably single. Pleasing personality.
- Computer literate, aggressive honest and hardworking.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
CROSSINGS DEPARTMENT STORE
Phase 2, Level 2 Shangri-la Plaza Mall
Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
CROSSINGS DEPARTMENT STORE
6th Floor Quad Alpha Centrum Bldg
125 Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City

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Please submit resumé with detailed job description, Diploma & Transcript of Records, Board Rating & Certificate, PRC I.D., Employment & Training Certificates, NBI/Barangay Clearance, 2 pcs 2x2 photos to:

OLIVE INT'L. MANPOWER RESOURCES, INC.
POEA License-095-LB-040104-PLe
Unit 403 Alexander House, 132 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City
Telefax 8175832 / 8170492

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SECRETARY

An international development organization has an immediate need for a SECRETARY to provide the entire range of secretarial support to one of its support offices. The incumbent will type/draft cables, letters, memos, faxes, and other documents; prepare handouts/power point presentations; handle telephone calls; receive, send out, and track required letters and other documents; and perform liaison functions within the organization, with Philippine Government counterparts, contractors, and other private sector representatives. The incumbent will also assist the team in coordination of meetings and related logistics; handle local and international travel requirements; maintain the office's files; and perform other related duties. Minimum educational requirement is completion of secondary education. Completion of secretarial course, business school or college, including typing, office practice, computer course is desirable. At least two (2) years of progressively responsible secretarial experience is required with one (1) year of this experience from donor agencies, private sector, or government organizations. Excellent command of English (both written and oral); level II typing ability (40 wpm); proficiency in the use of computers (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, e-mail, internet, etc.); and, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than May 13, 2005** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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Marketing coordinator
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writers and editors

Submit resume, transcript of records, and two 2x2 pictures to

AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW CENTER

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2/F FBR Building
317 Katipunan Avenue
Loyola Heights, Q.C.

SM MEGAMALL
5/F Building B
(in front of Megatrade Hall I)
Mandaluyong City

GREENHILLS
2/F Providence Building
55 Annapolis Street
Greenhills, San Juan

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Park Avenue
near Equitable Bank
Ortigas Center

E-mail: ahead_hr@yahoo.com Website: www.aheadph.com

A Fast Growing Co.
is in need of:

CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any course
- 21-28 years old; Female
- Must be single
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality and has a pleasant voice
- Must have good command of written and oral English and Filipino

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any course
- 21-28 years old; Female; single
- Must have good command of English
- Preferably w/ sales experience

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Preferably La Salle/Ateneo/UP Grad
- Computer literate
- Results oriented
- Preferably w/ one yr. experience w/ supervisory level
- should have good administrative skills

Submit your resumé, latest 2x2 photo, transcript of records, at First Quadrant Corporate Center 2nd Flr., Ortigas Ave. Greenhills, San Juan M.M. or email us at **hrd_cmdevelos@firstquadrant.org**

NWL

NEW WORLD LABORATORY

205 D. Tuazon Avenue, Quezon City

New World Laboratory is in need of a:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Requirements:
1. With a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, major in Marketing or other business-related courses
2. With at least 2 years of Sales & Marketing experience
3. 22 to 30 years old
4. Computer literate

Please forward your resumé to:

NWL Human Resources Department
Attn: Ms. Bethany Janise Ong
205 D. Tuazon Avenue, Quezon City

JOB Market

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INTRODUCTION

American Power Conversion provides protection against many of the primary causes of data loss, hardware damage and downtime. Founded in 1981, APC is a leading provider of global, end-to-end AC and DC-based back-up power products and services, which include surge suppressors, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), power conditioning equipment, power management software, and DC power systems as well as precision cooling equipment, and professional and consulting services for Nonstop Networking™. APC, known for Legendary Reliability™, sets the standard for quality, innovation and support for power protection solutions from desktop systems to data center operations to entire facilities. Its comprehensive solutions, which are designed for both home and corporate environments, improve the manageability, availability and performance of sensitive electronic, network, communication and industrial equipment of all sizes.

GLOBALPRESENCE

APC's corporate offices are located in West Kingston, Rhode Island. The Company has sales offices throughout the world; manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Ireland, Switzerland, Philippines, China, India, and Brazil; and ships product to over 150 countries. In 2003, 50% of APC's revenues were in the Americas (North and Latin America), 32% was in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and 18% was in Asia. As of December 31, 2003, APC had approximately 6,365 full-time employees worldwide.

KEYAPPLICATIONAREAS

Today, the Company focuses its efforts on four key application areas:
Home/Home Office
Business Networks
Access Provider Networks
Data Centers and Facilities

JOBPOSTINGS

ENGINEERS Manufacturing, Product engineering, Production, Mechanical Engineering, Magnetics and Purchasing.
TECHNICIANS Production, Repair and maintenance and Quality Control
OTHERS Production Supervisors, . Team Leads for Production

JOBQUALIFICATIONS

- 3 years experience in Product Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Manufacturing Purchasing, Manufacturing Planning or Project Management
- 5 years minimum experience in Project Management and Manufacturing Engineering or equivalent for senior engineering posts.
- Knowledgeable in Manufacturing Operations, background in Electronics with PCB and Final Assembly and system writing, an advantage
- 2 years supervisor experience for Production Supervisors with strong functional background in Production

Interested applicants may send their resumés at:
APCHRPhl.Recruitment@apcc.com.
You may also visit our plant at Lot 10 Blk 16 Phase IV
PEZA, Rosario, Cavite
or call us at telephone number 046-4371506.

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GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

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SENTRO 1771
PORTICO 1771
Ikbar afé

Be a part of a new heritage of good food and good service! Join us in making a great restaurant tradition live on. If you seek for golden opportunities to tap your skills
And maximize your potential in providing service in the restaurant industry then our company might just have the answer to what you are looking for.

CATERING SALES MANAGER

to qualify:
Preferably MRA/HRM or Business Graduate. Has sales & supervision experience in restaurant or club. Knowledgeable in menu planning and events conceptualization styling. At least 30 years old and above. Attributes thoroughness and creativity.

If you are interested,
Send your resumé, 2x2 photo,
Transcript of Records,
And Certificates of Employment or clearance
from previous employer to:
HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City,
Libis, Quezon City
email: hr@chateaugroup.com
Tel. No. 437-2065

Position Available Until May 31, 2005

We are a wholesale operation of both local and imported hardware products with a nationwide distribution. The company boasts of three satellite branches in the Philippines located in the three major island groups Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. As part of our expansion program, we are currently in need of dynamic and assertive individual to fill in the position of:

SALES TEAM MANAGER

Requirements :
- ✓ Male / Female (Single or Married)
- ✓ 28 years old & above
- ✓ 3 years & above field sales experience
- ✓ 2 years sales supervisory experience
- ✓ With experience in handling a sales group
- ✓ Strong leadership skills
- ✓ Excellent presentation skills

COLLECTOR / CREDIT INVESTIGATOR

Requirements :
- ✓ Male (Single or Married)
- ✓ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ✓ College graduate of any four year course
- ✓ At least 1 year experience in credit investigation and collection function
- ✓ Willing to travel
- ✓ Preferably knows how to drive a motorcycle

SALESMAN / SALESWOMAN

Requirements:
- ✓ Male / Female (Single or Married)
- ✓ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ✓ College graduate of any four year course
- ✓ At least 1-2 years experience in any consumer products.
- ✓ Experience in handling dealers will be an advantage.
- ✓ Willing to travel

For Visayas and Mindanao applicants, you may send your resumé with contact number to our designated Postal Office Box No. Those who will be qualified will be interviewed in our Visayas and Mindanao Offices.

Applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo by e-mail to : mjane0823@yahoo.com or by mail to : Box 100 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor Building B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

OVERSEAS ENGINEERING CONST. CO. LTDA. S.A.
POEA Accreditation #73122 Haiti, South America
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER US$1,100/MONTH - 5 yrs. exp. familiar in pre-stressed concrete design in bridges, reinforced concrete & steel structures, investigates design of other entities, able to work under pressure.

S.A. TECH. COMPLEX FOR CARS, DAMMAM, KSA
AUTO ELECTRICIAN - 3 yrs. exp. in relevant field, Age 23-35 yrs. old
FOREMAN MECHANIC - 5 yrs. exp. w/knowledge in fuel injection & Auto Transmission

MOHAMMED AL FARAJ OFFICE, KUWAIT
NEON SIGN TECHNICIAN - 4 yrs. exp. in relevant field. Age 40 yrs. old below.
LADY SEWER - 2 yrs. exp. Age 40 yrs. old below.
DOMESTIC HELPER - at least high school graduate, can speak English.
LADY DRIVER - 3 yrs. exp. w/driving license.

SHIH HSIUNG PLASTIC FACTORY, TAIWAN
FACTORY WORKER - 2 yrs. exp. as plastic injection operator, 21-35 yrs. old.

CARETAKERS, TAIWAN (ready contracts)
Employer: Chang Po-Tsun, Lin Chen Hua, Lin Chen Hua, Chiu-A Lan, Hu, Ke Chi.
Applicants should be at least 21-35 yrs. old.

Interested applicants may report for personal interview with 2 sets of detailed Resumé, 5 pcs. colored pictures, diploma, employment certificates, training/seminar certificates to:

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Tel: 3033023 / 3033026 Fax: 3033024

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Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resume with recent 2 x 2 photo to:

HRD Department
Unit 406 4/F Casa
Rafael Bldg.,
1223 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City
(Landmark: Beside
Balikbayan Handicraft)

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE*

- Male / Female – maximum of 28 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year college course
- Preferably one (1) year sales experience but not necessary
- Must possess a service and result-oriented attitude
- Highly motivated and team player
- Honest, hardworking with good PR & interpersonal skills

DRIVER/MESSENGER/UTILITY

- Male – 22 to 27 years old
- At least High School graduate or any vocational courses
- Preferably one (1) year experience in driving, messengerial and janitorial services
- Honest, hardworking and with good interpersonal skills

*Applicants shall be provided with competitive salary and above industry commission scheme.

URGENTLY NEEDED BY GARMENTS TRADING CO.

MERCHANDISER

Male or Female w/ export experience and adept in handling & working with different factories & different types of garments. Can understand patterns, computer literate & fluent in oral/written English.

PURCHASING STAFF (ACCESSORIES)

Male or Female, with 3 years experience in a garment factory as purchaser. With extensive contacts of trims supplier, computer literate & fluent in oral / written English.
Must be honest and hardworking

SAMPLE MAKER

Male or Female, at least high school graduate 25-35 years old with 3-5 years export experience in garments.
Must be honest, hardworking and a team player.

CUTTER / SPREADER

Male 25-35 years old, with knowledge in pattern, can understand and evaluate markers. Honest, hardworking and willing to work long hours with minimum supervision.

FAX RESUMÉ to 788-03-77
or e-mail it to maria@garmentsasia.com

APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK IN SUCAT PARANAQUE AREA

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20 years experience
(5 years of which with an American contractor)
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We are looking for professionals who have the burning desire to succeed and who want to join our ever-growing enterprise on a long term basis.

CONTROLLER

CPA. With at least 10 years experience as Chief Accountant or Finance Manager. Knowledge of computerized accounting system is a must. Keen attention to details, thorough and results-oriented. With excellent Math skills. Work involves management of accountants assigned to various subsidiaries according to company rules and policies.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

CPA. Not more than 35 years old. With at least 5 years supervisory experience. Knowledge of computerized accounting system is a must.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Computer Science graduate or any equivalent course. Not more than 30 years old. Work experience in the design of Multi-Level Marketing software and Peachtree Accounting is an advantage.

PROJECT ENGINEERS

Licensed C.E. not more than 38 years old, with at least 5 years experience in supervision of building construction projects. Must have experience in coordinating projects with architects, construction managers and other contractors. CADD knowledge an advantage. Knows how to drive.

SALES ENGINEERS

E.E., E.C.E. or M.E. graduates. With at least 3 years selling experience in construction related projects. To promote and sell electronics, electrical and mechanical systems applied in buildings and industries to consultants, engineers and contractors.

SALES EXECUTIVES

College graduate. Not more than 30 years old. With at least 2 years experience in the construction industry. We need sales executives to promote our roofing and wall products and who know architects, contractors and developers. Intensive training to be provided. With competitive salary, commissions and car plan.

Send resume or apply in person to: Multi-Line, Calderon Bldg., 827 EDSA, Diliman, Q.C

THE BAKE SHOP
NOBia

Urgently need competent and top caliber individuals for the following positions:

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Male, between 25-32 years old
- Must be college graduate of any course
- Must have at least three (3) years of work experience in warehousing
- Must be proficient in MS Office Applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be highly analytical and results-oriented
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication
- Preferably with experience in a supervisory position

DISPATCHING OFFICER

- Male, between 23-28 years old
- Must be college graduate of any course
- Must have at least one (1) year of related work experience
- Must have strong leadership skills
- Must be proficient in MS Office Applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Must be willing to work in rotating shifts

PURCHASING OFFICER

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Commerce or any business course
- Preferably male, between 25-30 years old
- Must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in Purchasing Department
- Proficient in MS Office Applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Highly organized, pro-active dependable and resourceful
- Must be proficient in verbal and written communication

We offer opportunities for career advancement, competitive salary and compensation package that commensurate to qualifications.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply personally or send their comprehensive resumé, 2x2 ID picture and transcript of record at #21 Scout Tuazon St., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City Telephone Number: 375-1096, 375-1032/52 loc. 120

CHINA Oceanis Group Ltd ("COG") is a company that specializes in the investment building operation of public aquarium/oceanarium attractions. The Group will be building a state-of-the-art Ocean Park in Manila and is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following positions:

PROJECT/DESIGN ENGINEERS

- Minimum 3 years experience in mechanical & electrical services preferably from a consultancy design construction environment
- Minimum qualification – Diploma holder in mechanical & electrical engineering or related discipline
- Skilled in AutoCAD software (Mechanical Desktop) is a MUST
- Knowledge in construction of swimming pool or installations involving usage of large fluid flow will be an added advantage

ASSISTANT CURATORS

- Able to lead a group of aquarists under his/her charge
- Marine biologist graduated from a recognized university
- Minimum 3 years hand-on working experience
- Able to liaise with government departments on CITIES requirements and documentation
- SCUBA diving certificate will be an added advantage
- Presently working in the government sector/ public aquarium are most welcome

CRAFTSMEN/ARTISANS

- Self motivated and talented practicing artist
- Able to work on fiberglass mould developing rock works and marine seascapes
- Job experience related to marine handicraft will be an added advantage
- Must be a team player

Interested applicants can personally submit their resumé w/ recent photo to **Vega Architects + Associates** at 8070 Estrella corner Tanguile Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City or email to c_oceanis@yahoo.com

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G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
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Emerson is looking for smart, driven and goal-oriented people for the following positions

EMERSON. Climate Technologies — Technical Support Engineer Oracle

The Job:

Primary Support for Emerson Retail Services ProAct Energy & CB project for TESCO. Will be responsible for setting up & running ProAct Energy & ProAct CB software. Will also support DBA activities of MSS software.

Secondary support area to be identified Primary Support for (Location) Refrigeration OEMs, Wholesalers, consultants and end users.

Qualifications:

- Thorough knowledge of JAVA, JSP/Servlet, JAVA Beans, J2EE and web technology
- Verifiable experience on developing web interface applications with Oracle and SQL Server database.
- Strong Oracle database design, SQL, PL/SQL with functional DBA knowledge
- Any Oracle portal and 9iAS experience will be preferred
- Requires excellent verbal/written communication skills
- Graduate degree preferably Mechanical or Electrical or Computer Engineering
- Minimum 4 years experience with expertise in JAVA application development on Oracle 9iAS architecture
- Project experience in USA will be duly considered

Job code: ECT - TSE ORACLE

EMERSON. Motor Technologies — Technical Support Engineer for Variable Speed Drives

The Job:

Provides first line technical support through telephone, email and fax. Accepts inbound/outbound calls and emails pertaining to inquiries on parts, control techniques VFD (Variable Frequency Drives) as well as some product troubleshooting.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering (BS EE), Electronics and Communications Engineering (BSECE) or Computer Engineering (BSCoE)
- At least one year experience in startup and commissioning, maintenance and troubleshooting of variable frequency drives; Knowledge and hands-on experience preferably Control Techniques or in other VFD brands such as Danfoss, Allen-Bradley, Siemens, ABB, Schneider, Reliance etc.
- Customer service experience is a plus
- Good communication skills
- Proficient with report writing, business correspondence and procedure manuals
- Knowledge in basic computer usage (Windows, MS Office, Outlook and Internet Navigation)
- Fundamental understanding of variable frequency drives & basic principles of AC motors

Job code: TSE - VFD

EMERSON. Network Power — Technical Support Engineer

The Job:

Assist sales, customers & internal representatives by providing application and technical support to help sell and support ASTEC products. This support includes technical information on Astec products and the application of these products. It also includes the assistance with custom product features. Ancillary product selection and pricing is sometimes required to help support the product sale.

Qualifications:

- University degree in Electrical Engineering or any related discipline/field
- Must be ECE/EE licensed
- At least 4 years working experience as Electrical Engineer
- At least 6 months experience working with customers of varied technical knowledge & business needs
- Excellent English communication skills
- Proficient in report writing, business correspondence & procedure manuals
- Good knowledge & understanding of power supply application & design
- Knowledge in basic computer usage (Windows, MS Office, Outlook, Internet)

Job code: ASTEC - TSE

EMERSON Network Power — Technical Support Engineer

The Job:

To provide sales and technical assistance to Customers & Field Sales Engineers by telephone or via correspondence. Keep updated with the industry issues, codes & standards and competitive products to enable proper support to inquiries.

Qualifications:

- BS Electrical Engineer (Preferably Major in Power)
- Minimum of 4 years experience in electrical engineering or related fields
- Preferred working exposure with Emergency & Back-up Systems
- Basic computer proficiency
- Understanding of Communication System Strategies used in Industrial Applications

Job code: ASCO - TSE

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34/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

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KRC Commercial Building 1
National Highway, Subangdaku
Mandaue City, Cebu 6014

For inquiries, please call:
Manila (02) 817-8781
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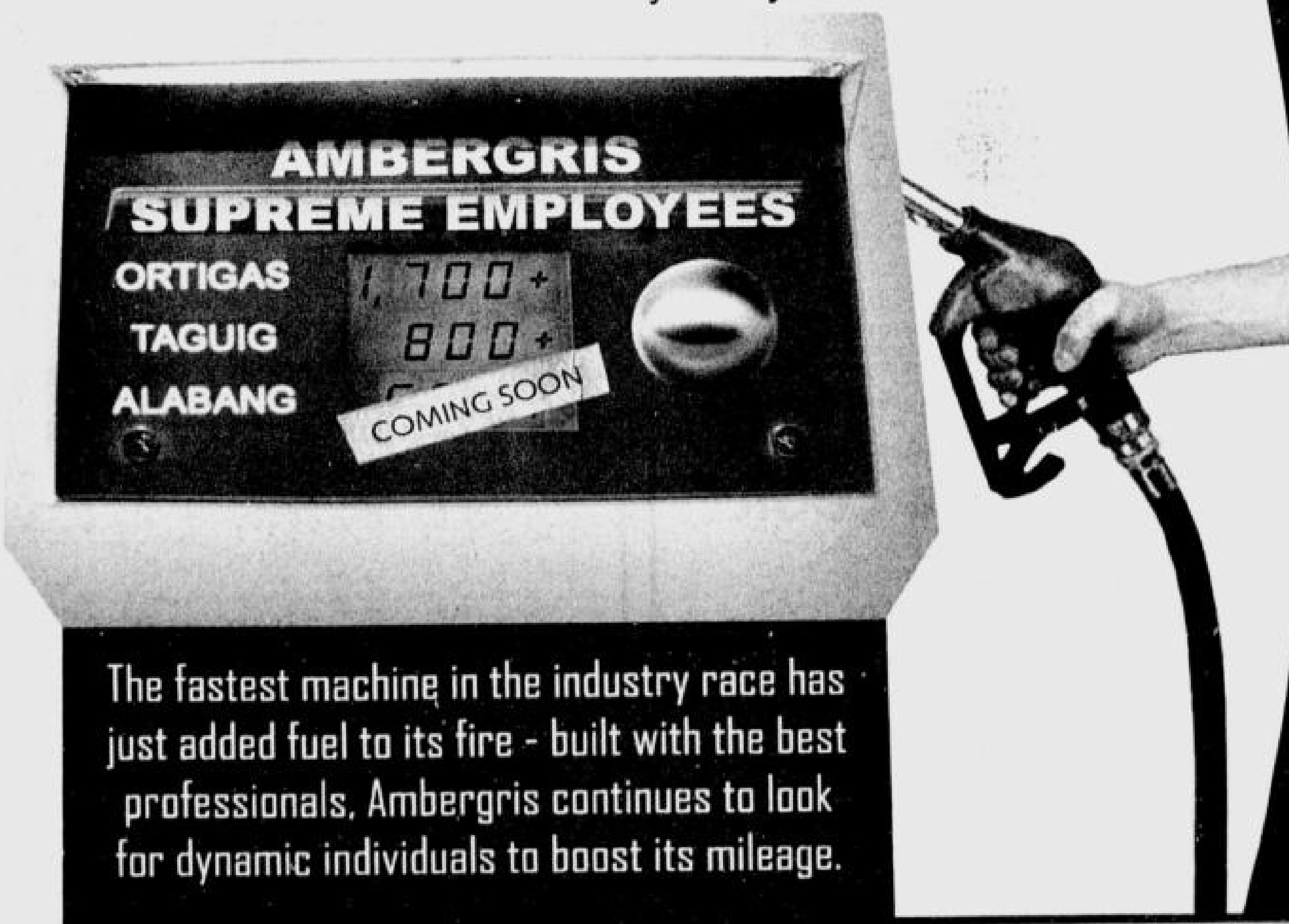

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urgently needs..

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant and must have knowledge in Financial Accounting, Financial Planning & Control, Reconciliation, Budgeting and other related functions in a managerial capacity
- Must have at least 3 years work experience from manufacturing or retail Industries
- Must be willing to work long hours
- Highly proficient in computer applications

TREASURY MANAGER (TM)
CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGER (CCM)

- Graduate of business related course, preferably with MBA
- Computer literate and must have knowledge in risk management, corporate cash management, budget and financial analysis
- For CCM- Must have at least 2 years managerial experience in credit management of complex accounts from manufacturing or retail industries
- FOR TM- Must have at least 4 years work experience in Treasury from manufacturing or retail industries

DATA INTEGRITY & INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER

- Graduate of Accounting or Industrial Engineering
- Must have at least 2 years managerial experience from manufacturing or retail industries with background in Inventory Accounting in a computerized environment
- Highly proficient in computer applications and familiar with JDA,EIS,Platinum Systems

BOUTIQUE MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- Must have an extensive exposure in Boutique operations, preferably in jewelry & watches
- Must have exposure in sales, marketing, events and promotions management
- Must possess excellent customer service orientation
- Must have good communication and team management skills

REGISTRIES AND CLUBS MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- Must have at least 2 years work experience, preferably with background in retail, public relations
- Must have knowledge of home & lifestyle and ability to coordinate items
- Must possess excellent customer service orientation

CREDIT & COLLECTION SUPERVISOR
FMS SUPERVISOR

- Between 25 to 35 years old
- College Degree in Finance, Accounting, Economic or Business Administration, preferably with Master's Degree
- At least two (2) years Supervisorial capacity in credit evaluation and receivables collection
- Must be knowledgeable in risk management, corporate cash management, budget and financial analysis
- Must be highly effective with customers interpersonally and possesses analytical and administrative skills
- Must be computer literate and efficient

AUDIT ANALYSTS

- Female, between 21 to 27 years old
- BS-Industrial Engineering or Accounting graduate
- Preferably CPA and or with related job experience in external or internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysis and designs
- With IT/Audit background

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Between 21 to 28 years old
- BS -Accounting graduate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience

JUNIOR GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- College degree in Advertising or Fine Arts
- At least 2 years experience as graphic illustrator/designer; with retail experience a plus
- Knows how to use MAC; proficient in Corel, Adobe, Illustrator, Photoshop & Freehand computer softwares
- Willing to work overtime and be assigned in our branches if needed

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- Female, between 20 to 28 years old
- Has completed at least 2 years in college with a course of Physical Therapy or Nursing
- At least 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral Communication skills

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

- Between 18 to 28 years old
- Has completed at least 2 years in college
- 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral Communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
Human Resources & Organizational Development Division
G/F El Mercasol Bldg., EDSA, Manadaluyong City
Or email to: jrsilvestre@rustans.com.ph

visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

A food manufacturing company based outside Metro Manila as part of its continuing expansion and strategy to meet the prevailing business challenges, are currently looking candidates for the following positions:

LINE SUPERVISORS

Male/Female, graduate of B.S. Mechanical/ Industrial Engineering or any related Engineering course with or without experience. Dedicated, can work under minimum supervision and willing to work on night shift.

Other requirements needed:

- willing to work beyond 8 hours
- flexible and willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- team player
- computer literate
- results driven and resourceful

Interested applicants may submit or mail their comprehensive resumé indicating the position applied for and latest 2x2 picture to the address below. Indicate your contact number and you will be notified. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
562 Banawe Street, Barangay Sto. Domingo, Quezon City 1100

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*We carry prestigious IT Product Lines which includes a broad range of **Market Systems & Peripherals; Network & Communication; Pre-press & Graphics.***

*and... we want **YOU** to become part of our vision of becoming today's **better solutions company.***

BUSINESS UNIT HEAD / SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- ✓ Top caliber professionals with years of proven track record in sales gained from **I.T. and Printing Firm** related industry.
- ✓ Technically inclined, highly creative, flexible and can easily adapt to changes or improvements in management.
- ✓ With Strong leadership capabilities and people management competency.
- ✓ Result-driven, strategic thinker with good analytical capabilities.

SALES OFFICER / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Experience in the same capacity an advantage
- ✓ Can conduct product demonstration effectively and eloquently
- ✓ Have wide client network from corporate and end-user level
- ✓ Should be aggressive, pleasing, hardworking and with utmost initiative

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE / TELEMARKETER

- ✓ Graduate of any 4 year course
- ✓ Excellent oral and written communicatoin skills
- ✓ Must be flexible with utmost initiative.
- ✓ Willing to be trained and establish a carrer in sales.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER / NETWORK ENGINEER

- ✓ COE, ECE or any related Computer/IT course graduate
- ✓ With basic knowledge in data communication network
- ✓ Excellent troubleshooting skills
- ✓ Willing to do fieldwork and on-site assignment

OTHER JOB OPENINGS

Accounting supervisor/staff
Graphic Artist
Company Driver

Interview schedule will be from Monday to Friday 9:00AM - 2:00PM Bring Resume and recent photo

HRM DEPARTMENT
American Technologies, Inc.
ATI Bldg. 455 Gen. Bautista St., San Juan, MM.
1500 / Tel# 723 0601-12 Fax# 723 7951 e-mail: apply@ati.com.ph

APC POLYCOM FUJI XEROX Avocent ILFORD ECRM
SIEMENS InFocus IBM VERITAS PRINTRONIX COREL
METAZA Roland Polaroid océ 3D

Sinogold
ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES

1). CORPORATE SECRETARY

RESPONSIBILITY
- General administration and management of corporate systems
- Liaison with the media like magazine publishers, advertising companies, PR companies, and the like for company product and services promotion
- Constant communication with overseas principals for updates. Business trip maybe required nationwide or overseas occasionally

REQUIREMENTS
- Female, 25 to 30 years old
- University graduate preferably in Business related discipline (Business Management/Administration), MasCom, Advertising, Computer Applications and other related fields
- Basic word-processing skills required
- Proficient in spoken and written English
- Candidate must be presentable, dynamic, mature, outgoing, and result oriented
- 1-2 years working experience preferably, fresh graduates are also welcome

2). SALES EXECUTIVE
3). INTERACTIVE SERVICES OFFICER

RESPONSIBILITY
- Customer care either through phone or by answering emails.
- Required to man booths in the event of company exhibits and/or product launching
- Required to contact major / prestigious schools and other learning institutions for promotion of company products
- (Only for #2) Constant visit of company clients and partners nationwide for follow up of sales data

REQUIREMENTS
- Male or female, 25 to 30 years old
- University graduate in Business related discipline, MasCom, any computer related course, Sales and Marketing (Plus for #2)
- Basic word-processing skills and/or basic database administration (XLS) required
- Proficient in spoken and written English
- Candidate must be presentable, dynamic, outgoing, mature, and result oriented
- 1-2 years working experience preferably, fresh graduates are also welcome

4) COMPUTER APPLICATION SPECIALIST

RESPONSIBILITY
- Installation of the company's hardware and software products in client computers
- Perform on-site demonstrations, troubleshooting, and customer training

REQUIREMENTS
- Male, 25 to 30 years old
- University graduate in Information Technology related discipline
- Proficient in Windows XP and 2000 installation and configuration, commercial software such as Microsoft Office, and local area networking installation and maintenance
- Candidate must be presentable, dynamic, and able to work with minimal supervision
- 1-2 years working experience preferably, fresh graduates are also welcome

5). WEB DESIGNER / DEVELOPER

REQUIREMENTS
- Male or female, 25 to 30 years old
- University graduate in Information Technology related disciplin
- Proficient in the following: ASP or PHP, MSSQL or MySQL, HTML 4.0, JavaScript, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Flash
- Candidate must be presentable, dynamic, creative and able to work with minimal supervision
- 1-2 years working experience preferably, fresh graduates are also welcome

APPLICANTS PLEASE SEND COMPLETE RESUMÉ W/ COLORED PICTURE, EXPECTED SALARY, & APPLICATION LETTER by EMAIL to jyeung@ais-hk.biz

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We are Urgently in need of:
WAITER and COOK

Qualifications:

- ➢ Male / Female, 23 – 28 yrs old (Waiter)
- ➢ Male, at least 27 yrs old and above (Cook)
- ➢ At least 5'6 inches and above
- ➢ At least College Level
- ➢ Can Speak and Understand English Well
- ➢ At least 2 yrs experience in Waitering on Restaurant & Banquet Operation (Fine Dining)
- ➢ At least 2 yrs experience on Hot & Cold Food Section
- ➢ Hard Working and with full dedication to the job, efficient and responsible.
- ➢ Can do Multi-tasking with minimum supervision
- ➢ Flexible Time Schedule

Qualified applicants may send their detail resumé to:

PARQUE ESPAÑA RESIDENCE HOTEL
Food & Beverage Department
5309 East Asia Drive, Alabang, FCC, Muntinlupa City
or send it through email at parqueespana@hil.com.ph

PRISM PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Scope of Work
Private Sector Liaison Officer

Background:

PRISM supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

Each component of the PRISM project requires collaboration with national, regional, and local associations and their affiliates and the private sector liaison officer will be responsible for managing relationships with those associations and facilitating access to them by other PRISM project team members.

General Tasks for the position include but not limited to:

1. Act as field coordinator with designated private sector partners
2. Prepare for and conduct business development activities in areas identified as targets of opportunity
3. Conduct initial scanning of the identified geographic areas to include business associations, service firms, professional medical and para-medical associations in terms of potential for expansion of FP service provision and make corresponding recommendations
4. Work with PRISM technical and management staff to implement approaches and strategies to counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups

Reporting:

The private sector liaison officer will report directly to PRISM technical operations director or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the liaison officer's overall performance.

Qualifications (Private Sector Liaison Officer)

- – Experience in marketing of products in the commercial healthcare industry
- – Previous managerial experience
- – Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business organizations is an advantage
- – Proficient in WORD, Excel, Powerpoint

Complete Scope Of Work available upon request. Please email all resumes to jobs@prism.org.ph on or before May 6, 2005.

JOBS @ PHILHEALTH

We are in need of job order contractors for the position of:

ATTORNEY IV
(SG-23)

to be assigned in our Regional Offices, specifically in:

PhilHealth Regional Office-I, Dagupan City
PhilHealth Regional Office-II, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
PhilHealth Regional Office-V, Legaspi City
PhilHealth Regional Office-VI, Iloilo City
PhilHealth Regional Office-VIII, Tacloban City
PhilHealth Regional Office-IX, Zamboanga City
PhilHealth Regional Office-XI, Davao City
PhilHealth Regional Office-CARAGA, Butuan City

Minimum Qualifications:

- * Bachelor of Laws
- * Two (2) years of relevant experience
- * Eight (8) hours of relevant training
- * RA 1080 (BAR)

Other Qualification Requirements:

- He/She must have excellent oral and written communication
- He/She must be computer literate

Interested applicants may come personally or send their application, comprehensive curriculum vitaé with recent 2x2 photo, Certificate of previous employment and training and Bar Result to **PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**; HRD, Rm. 1507, 15th Flr. CityState Ctr. Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City.

Deadline of submission of applications for lawyer positions shall be on May 5, 2005. Only qualified applicants will be called.

PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health

CARE - Philippines, a non-government humanitarian organization fighting poverty, is searching for qualified candidates for:

PROJECT OFFICER

The work primarily involves the implementation of CARE Philippines' Community-based Disaster Reduction Project in Dingalan, Aurora under the Disaster Management (DM) Program. S/he will be part of the Field Office Team for Dingalan. As part of the DM Program Team, s/he will contribute to developing CARE Philippines' disaster reduction program; assist in designing and preparing disaster reduction project proposals; take part in supervising the implementation of disaster reduction projects; participate in project reporting, monitoring, and evaluation; assist in documenting best practices; and provide technical backstopping.

Applicants should have at least a bachelor's degree and 3 years relevant experience in social development, preferably in the area of disaster management. S/he must possess excellent analytical skills, the appropriate values consistent with social development work, and good communication and interpersonal skills. S/he must be competent in written English and be computer literate. Email recruitment@care.org.ph for full details of the job description, qualifications and application process. The salary for this item will range from P14,000 to P17,000 Submit résumé by May 10, 2005 to: The Country Director, CARE Philippines, 3rd Flr., Luisa 2 Bldg., 107 Maginhawa St., Teachers Village East, Quezon City, Tel No. 9290798.

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Qualification Requirements:

- College level education preferably in computer related/engineering courses
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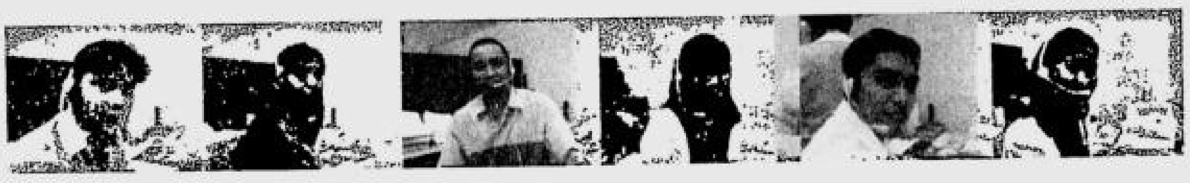
- Knowledgeable of the internet and internet connectivity
- Must have the ability to handle large amount of data and maintain data accuracy
- Willing to work on shifts and extended working hours
- Cisco Certification or CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Net is an advantage

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO MEET YOU ON:
May 3, 2005 *(Tuesday)* **and May 4, 2005** *(Wednesday)*
VENUE : **G/F PLDT BLDG., BONI AVENUE, MANDALUYONG CITY**
TIME : **8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**
Please bring your resumé.

***Visit us at our website www.pldt.com.ph or give us a call at 8-PLDTHR (8-753847)**



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- Female
- Marketing Graduate or related course, fresh grads are welcome
- With excellent communication skills

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Cashier, Customer Relations, etc.
- Female, with pleasing personality
- With minimum 3 yrs. college education
- Great communication skills

Please Apply Personally At:
150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Q.C.
on C-5 between Shopwise & Monark
Tel. Nos. 6370.650 / 6366.667

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

- Graduate of BSBA/Accounting
- Below 24 years of age, good communication skills and with good moral character

Please send your comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 ID Photo to:
c/o Box No. KA-032-05MB
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Trinity Bldg. #636 TM Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

WANTED

STORE MANAGER for Photo Studio and Photo Shop providing Photo-Video services in studio and event coverages. Store also provides Developing and Printing Services selling of photo equipments, supplies and accessories. Must have at least 5 years experience in this field. College Graduate, Honest, Responsible, Can Work Long Hours, etc. Mail picture & resumé to P.O. Box 1260, Manila 1000

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Is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions:

Marketing Manager
- Developing and implementing advertising and PR campaigns
- conducting tie-ups and events
- MBA graduate from a reputed institute
- Experience in fashion industry is a plus
- Excellent communication interpersonal relationship skills
- 4-5 years of marketing experience

Operations Assistant Manager
- Graduate of any business course
- 2-3 years of experience preferably in retail
- excellent communication & people skills
- customer service oriented
- sales driven

Assistant Manager for Merchandising
- Degree in Fashion or relevant course
- Merchandise and Assortment Planning
- Strong analytical, financial, negotiation and vendor management skills
- Knowledge in fashion trends, fabric and accessories

Marketing Officer
- Graduate of Marketing or any business course
- with at least 2 years experience in product promotion, advertising and other related marketing skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to travel

Architect
- Graduate of Architecture (MALE)
- 2-3 years working experience in feasibility, planning, design contract documentation & construction administration
- Proficiency in AutoCAD, Corel, Photoshop.
- Highly creative with strong organizational skills
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Retail experience is an asset.

Retail Planner
- 2-3 years experience in similar position (FEMALE)
- Supply chain management experience
- Store stock allocation and replenishment
- Sales and stock monitoring
- Excellent analytical skills.
- Proficiency in Excel is a must
- Experience in fashion industry is a plus

Fashion Designer
- Graduate from leading fashion institute (FEMALE)
- 3 years experience in garments industry is a must
- Excellent Adobe Photosop, Corel Draw
- Hands on knowledge of fabrics and their costs
- Knowledge of national and international sourcing base
- Experience in knits designing a plus
- wiling to travel

Accounting Supervisor
- accounting graduate, (FEMALE)
- with 2 years working experience
- proficient in MS Office application
- strong analytical, communication & interpersonal skills

Warehouse Supervisor
- Preferably Accounting graduate (MALE)
- Minimum 3 years warehouse supervisory experience
- Time and people management skills a must
- Should be able to handle multiple jobs at the same time

Recruitment & Training Officer
- Graduate of Behavioral Science/Psychology
- Very good customer service orientation
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Detail conscious management style

Payroll/HR Coordinator
- Accounting graduate preferably
- 2-3 years experience

➡ Please send your resume with picture or you may apply in person at:
Branded Lifestyle, Inc. 2247 Kodak Bldg. Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City & look for **Ms. Jessica Tuazon** or email us at **hr@bli.com.ph**

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NOW HIRING:

In-House Bookkeeper / Accounting Supervisor
- Single / female with at least 2 years experience working in a company that handles nationwide operations.
- Proficient in English
- Willing to work long hours.
- Computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and other Windows application).

Encoder
- 25-35 years old
- Female

Senior Hairdressers / Manicurists
Send your resumé to:
Unit 1501, 15th Floor, West Trade Center, 132 West Avenue, Q.C.
Tel. 374-7149 to 51 or you may send it thru email at: **ystilo@yahoo.com**

A multinational electronics manufacturing company is in urgent need of:

JAPANESE INTERPRETER

QUALIFICATIONS:
Male, Minimum JLPT Level 2; Excellent Communication Skills (Japanese & English)
Interested applicants are requested to submit their resume in person. You may also FAX or E MAIL it to the contact information indicated below.

We are also in need of the following:

TEST ENGINEER
QA/QC ENGINEER
PROCESS ENGINEER
PRODUCT ENGINEER
PRODUCTION ENGINEER
ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

QUALIFICATIONS:
Minimum of 2 years experience in electronic manufacturing company
Applicants for other position may submit their resume via FAX or E MAIL to the contact information indicated below. Indicate the position you wish to apply.

METRONIC ASIA
[illegible]

Fast growing financing company is looking for **ACCOUNT OFFICERS** with background on car sales / financing or car sales / marketing and Account Officers with experience in factoring of receivables.

We invite qualified candidates to submit in confidence your resumé stating your qualification to ...

Unit 1812 18th Floor Citystate Centre
No. 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Look for Ms. Nenita Estanislao
Telefax # 634-0218

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Our Agency is urgently in need of
INFORMATION PROGRAM ASSISTANTS (IPA)
- Male/Female, part-time/full-time, H.S. Graduate
- Self-motivated, results-oriented, goal-driven
- Work experience not necessary

REPORT from May 2-6, 2005, 9:00 am-12:00nn to
THE AGENCY MANAGER-CHUA ARHA
5th floor, Prudentialife Bldg., 843 Arnaiz St. (Pasay Rd.),
Makati City. Look for Dong, Dang or Tess

ANTIPOLO PRESCHOOL
is in need of
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– fluent in English
Pls. call 658-1374
or e-mail
emanila@pldtdsl.net

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For a Leading Telecommunication Company

QUALIFICATION:

- College Level (at least 2nd Year)
- Computer Literate
- With Good communication Skills
- With Pleasing Personality
- Hard Working

BRING RESUMÉ OR EMAIL TO THE FOLLOWING VENUES / AGENCIES:

CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT RESOURCES INC.
G/F Archway Bldg 53 Dagupan cor San Joaquin St.SFDM Quezon City
cmr_phil@yahoo.com
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Tondo, Sampaloc, Sta Mesa, Malate, Paco, Binondo, Quiapo)

POINTMAN PLACEMENT SPECIALIST, INC
Rm. 404 Aurelio Bldg, 9th Ave Cor Rizal Ave Ext Caloocan City
pointmanppsi@yahoo.com / pointmanppsi@pacific.net.ph
Contact Person Ana Balabag/ Mary Jane Denoga
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Luzon City, Cubao, Balara, Commonwealth, Novaliches, Kaloocan, Gracepark, Malabon; Valenzuela)

AE RESEARCH
Rm. 400J Delta Bldg West Ave Quezon City
aerei@pacific.net.ph
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Ortigas, Mandaluyong,Pasig, Cainta, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo, Tanay, Angono, Binangonan)

CENTENNIAL TECHNOLOGIES & MARKETING CORP.
G/F PNCC Compound EDSA corner Reliance St., Mandaluyong MM
centech@info.com.ph / centech_recruit@yahoo.com
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Makati Pasay, Paranaque, Alabang, Las Piñas)

BRING THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Resume with two (2) 2x2 ID pictures, Original (for reference) and two photocopies of Transcript of Record and/or Certification of Graduation (Diploma)
- Original and two (2) photocopies of any of the following: NBI / Police / Barangay Clearance; Birth Certificate and SSS E-1 form/card.

APPLICATIONS INCLUDING THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 07, TWO (2) DAYS BEFORE THE TRAINING DATE SCHEDULED ON MAY 09, 2005

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needs

JAVA PROGRAMMERS

Qualifications:

- Computer Science graduate or graduate of equivalent courses
- Have sound programming knowledge using Java
- Knowledge in Japanese is an advantage
- Resourceful and self-learner
- Willing to work as a team
- Male or Female not more than 24 years old
- With good moral character

Qualified applicants must bring the following requirements:

- Comprehensive resumé
- Diploma/Certificate of Graduation
- Transcript of Records
- 1 pc. 2x2 latest ID picture

Apply personally from Monday to Friday
Previous applicants need not apply

SHI DESIGNING & MANUFACTURING, INC.
32nd Floor, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Non-Linear Video Editor

- Male/Female at least 6 months working experience
- 20-25 years of age
- college graduate / undergraduate

Book Binder

- Male at least 6 months working experience
- 25-35 years of age

Bring Resume, NBI Clearance,
2 2x2 ID Picture

For more information
Call Eileen Buencamino (02) 535-5360
or go to:
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D.L.J. Intern'l Mgt. Services, Inc.
4/F GRL Mansions. 46 Dr. Sixto Ave., Pasig City
Telephone **747 0588, 747 9318** – see or call Malou

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES ENGINEER

- Graduates of Engineering, preferably Electrical
- Proficient in communication skills in English, Pilipino & Chinese
- Effective skills in interpersonal relations
- Confident, outgoing personality, and street-smart in spotting business opportunities
- male or female, 21-35 yrs. old

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Accounting Graduate
- Female, 21-35 yrs. old
- Proficient in computer operation skills including Windows software
- Preferably Chinese speaking
- Well-organized, time-wise and able to work well under pressure

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1"x1" ID photos and transcript of records.

Tel. No.: 251-2881
e-mail: yekacctg@pldtdsl.net

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Cardiac Clinical Scientific Officer

Post graduates with extensive experience in conjunction with the specified field.Shall be responsible for maintaining and ensuring professional standards and delivering high quality standards. **Highly competitive salaries & benefits await selected candidates.**

Please submit your comprehensive resume along with scanned copies of your employment professional and training certificates with 1 passport size photo and passport copy to:

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REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ A duly registered Customs Broker (sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation)
- ✓ Preferably accredited at all major Ports (e.g., Port of Manila, NAIA, MICP)
- ✓ Willing to provide customs and tariff advisory services
- ✓ Expert in customs clearance of all types of commodities
- ✓ Knowledgeable in securing import and/or commodity clearances and licenses from government agencies
- ✓ Preferably, with trucking service that can handle delivery within and outside Metro Manila
- ✓ With enough manpower to handle huge volume of importation, both by air and sea
- ✓ Willing to keep import records for 3 years from date of importation
- ✓ With good reputation at the Bureau of Customs and other government agencies

Should the customs broker be a corporation, it must comply with RA 9280 once the same is fully implemented by customs.

If interested, please mail your firm profile
and contact details to:
AOU-DLUGMS, 14th Floor, Ramon Magsaysay Center,
1680 Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila

"Teach... on the web"

GoVida Studios, Inc. is an IT company based in the Philippines with affiliates in Minneapolis, chicago and Geneva. We are one of the pioneers in the business of developing e-learning courses in the Philippines.

We are currently looking for a

COURSE DEVELOPER

The individual we are looking for should have the following qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in Education, Psychology or Organizational Development
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Teaching experience preferred but not required
- Computer literate, familiar with web research and software presentation tools such as MS PowerPoint
- Can work under pressure
- Must be a team player
- Fast learner

The **COURSE DEVELOPER** is responsible for:

- Working with a multi-skilled team to product quality courses in non-traditional field or subjects areas
- Designing the content and learning plan

For inquiries please call 8110094/8934344 and look for Tess or send us an email at humanresources@govida.net. New graduates are welcome to apply.

MILLENNIUM COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

A company premier in the country for distribution of IT peripherals is inviting young professionals to join the company in pursuing its goal of maintaining its leadership in the industry is in need of ......

Metro Manila Opening

PRODUCT MANAGER (PM)
Requirements:

- Male/Female, ages 25 years and above
- Will be the primary point person in charge of marketing, channel development, stocking and selling of the product.
- Will handle a sales team who will report to him/her directly.
- Experience in IT distribution will be a definite advantage.
- Leadership and selling skills. Multi-tasking. Works hard Creative

SALES ENGINEERS (SE)
Requirements

- Male or female, graduate of Engineering courses particularly Electronics and Communications Engineering & Computer Engineering
- Must have experience and/or knowledge in IT server, Networking Installation/Storage and updated with latest IT trends and technology.
- With experience in handling corporate accounts, attain sales quotas & Manage all aspects in sales cycle for IT products. Aggressive, highly motivated and organized,willing to be trained

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (AA)
Requirements:

- Female, single, 21 years old & above
- Graduate of Accounting or any business course
- Computer literate (Windows base programs, MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Assertive, highly motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- Experience in Bookkeeping is an advantage

Provincial Opening

REGIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES (RSR)
Requirements:

- Male or Female, ages 22 years old and above
- Graduate of any degree course
- Must be extremely motivated & aggressive in pursuing success in his/her career
- Must have a strong entrepreneurial and excellent communication skills
- Proven record of experience in sales in the IT industry or any allied industries
- Preferably a resident of the following regions:

Calabarzon Region- (Cavite ,Laguna, Batangas & Quezon)
Bicol Region–(Legazpi)
Western Visayas Region- (Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas & Victorias)
Eastern Visayas Region-(Tacloban)

Submit your comprehensive resume with latest photo to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
MILLENNIUM COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
53 Tangali St San Jose, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (0632) 363-7777 loc 362 Or E-mail to hrd@millennium.com.ph
Or you may drop by our website at www.millennium.com.ph
For more details about the open positions and fill up our online registration form

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We are a medium size company engaged in electronics and electrical parts trading servicing the needs of export oriented companies in line with our expansion plans, we are in need of the following personnel.

One (1) Bookkeeper / Accountant

- At least 2 to 3 years experience in bookkeeping
- Familiar with preparation of reports for BIR and SEC submission
- Computer literate

Three (3) Telemarketers

- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in telemarketing
- Pleasant personality
- Computer literate

Applicants must preferably be residents of either Las Piñas or Parañaque
Please send your resume together with the following 1x1 ID picture, transcript of records and NBI clearance to the address below:

Fax No.: 820-1572
Email: manilaoverseas@tri-isys.com

A chemical trading company based in Muntinlupa has an opening for:

SALES ENGINEER

Qualification:

- o BS Degree in Chemical Engineering
- o Minimum 3 years experience in sales, previous experience in the field of chemical trading particularly in fragrances, flavors and plant extracts would be an advantage
- o Valid driver's license
- o Excellent customer service orientation
- o Honest, hardworking and aggressive

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé and most recent 2x2 picture to:

HRD Officer
Unit G-02 Park Trade Centre, 1716 Investment Drive
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1770
Tel. Nos.: 850-4858, 809-3376 • Fax No.: 850-4859
E-mail: fayo_valencia@pldtdsl.net

ARCHITECT

- 1-3 years experience in Arch. Design
- Proficient in CADD & other programs
- Dexterous in Rendering

Bring Resumé and Sample of Works (CADD & manually drafted / rendered drawings) on

03 May 2005 (Tuesday) from 9 am to 5 pm at

Rm. 209, Xavierville Royale Condominium, 61 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC

YOUR CONNECTION TO
BETTER PEOPLE. BETTER JOBS.
JOB Market
[illegible]

- WANTED -

Business Development Officer

| Applicants must have Effective Leadership Skills and Exceptional Selling and Marketing Abilities |
| Experience in Retail Trade Furniture is an Advantage |
| Age 25 - 35 | Output-driven | Pro-active | Service-oriented |
| Can analyze financial statements & do market research |

Send your resumé to **chen_ni_fer_15@yahoo.com**
OR fax it to #896-3476

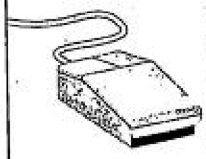
A diagnostic company needs hard working and goal oriented:

Med Tech w/ or w/o license

New graduates welcome

Send resumé to:

Suite A-106
Ben-Lor Bldg.
1184 Quezon Avenue
QC 1103



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

NO TRICKS.
JUST FACTS.
eTelecare Global Solutio

Offshore 100 Top 10 Leader in Human Capital Development

Winner, ICCM Best Outsourcer for four straight years

Winner, MVP Quality Award from Custo Inter@ction Solutions for four straight

Ranked No.1, Watson Wyatt's Industry Compensation Survey

UNLIKE OTHER CALL CENTERS WHICH USE SMOKE AND MIRRORS TO CREATE AN ILLUSION OF GREATNESS, ETELECARE RELIES ON NOTHING, BUT FACTS.

When we say we are the world's most awarded call center, prestigious award-giving bodies like the International Call Center Management vouch for us. Recently, neoIT, the leading offshore advisory and management firm, and CMP's Managing Offshore, the monthly newsletter for global-sourcing managers, named eTelecare as **Offshore 100's Top 3 Offshore Call Center and Top 10 Leader in Human Capital Development.**

The recognitions we have received are undisputed facts, a testament to our drive for global excellence and our commitment in developing our workforce.

So, the next time you hear claims from other companies, do not be misled by their empty promises and lip service. To know the leading call center, just check out the facts.

MANILA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

OPERATIONS
- **Inbound Sales Associate**
- **Outbound Sales Associate**
  (preferably with sales experience)
- **Inbound Customer Service Associate**
  (preferably with call-handling CS background)
- Multilingual Customer Service Associate (French, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish)
- Operations Manager
- Site Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Business Analyst

CORPORATE GROWTH AND PLANNING
- Contract Quality Assurance Manager

CEBU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

OPERATIONS
- Team Leader
- Quality Assurance Manager
- Operations Manager

INFORMATION TECHNNOLOGY
- Telecoms Specialist
- IT Manager

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- OD Trainer
- OD Officer
- OD Manager

eTelecare

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Four Ways To Earn the e Mark:

- Call for an immediate phone interview —
  Manila: (02) 580-6530
  Cebu: (032) 411-9010/9030
- Visit us for pre-employment screening —
  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building
  Eastwood City Cyber Park
  Bagumbayan, Quezon City
  Cebu Office: 6/F PIPC Engineering Sciences Bldg.
  Asia Town IT Park, Salinas Drive
  Lahug, Cebu City 6000
- E-mail your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- Fax your resume to —
  Manila Recruiting: (02) 687-4841
  Cebu Recruiting: (032) 415-8458

A Dynamic and fast growing Company **is in need** of service-oriented and young Professionals **to be part of our team.**

- **Store Manager(Dau Pampanga)**
- **Account Executive/Sales Coordinator**
- **Office Assistants**
  - Graduate from an exclusive & reputable school (DLSU / UP / ADMU)
  - Must have 2 years intensive training w/ related field
  - Dedicated, Motivated and RESULT oriented
  - Smart, Fast Learner and Must be computer literate (windows nt/xp/powerpoint)
  - Must have excellent interpersonal skills and leadership skills
  - Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
  - Willing to travel within Philippines
  - Fluent in oral & written communications (English)
  - At least 25-35 years of age with pleasing personality

Promodisers (for Metro Manila / Angeles Pampanga)
- w/ 2 years experience in Hardware Section
- Aggressive w/ good communication skills
- At least College level
- Must be pleasing personality

*** IF YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED & WANT TO MAKE IT BIG, Send your resumé now w/ your most recent picture (indicate the position applied for) at 2nd Flr., 280 San Fernando St. Binondo Mla. (5 mins Walking distance from Binondo Church) sa_phils@i-manila.com

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LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC.

MAKER OF LEPANTO TILES

SALES (ACCOUNT) EXECUTIVE (South Luzon & NCR)

He will be tasked to develop distributors network and system that will effectively service the customers. Must have at least 2 years selling experience in fast moving consumer products, with knowledge in product presentation and collection. A graduate of Business Admin. / Eng'g. courses. Keen and analytical with excellent interpersonal & leadership skills, highly motivated, articulate and self-starter, willing to travel, can speak fookien language is an advantage.

PROJECT OFFICER

B.S. Architecture or B.S. Civil Eng'g. graduate, with at least 2 years experience in project development and construction, can effectively interacts with architects and engineers. Excellent in oral and written communication, with proficiency in windows application, willing to travel, aggressive, innovative, goal oriented.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Graduate of BS Ceramic or Chemical Eng'g. with at least 3 years experience in ceramics manufacturing with strong planning and leadership skills. Possesses high degree of reliability and can work under pressure. Good in oral and written communication.

A competitive remuneration package and benefits awaits successful candidates, interested parties are advised to send comprehensive resumé with picture and photocopy of TOR to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC.
Km. 53 Makiling, Calamba City
Tel. # (049) 545-1868 / 545-2449 Fax # (049) 545-2314 / 545-2413
Email: fel-an@softhome.net

A fast growing and dynamic company based in Binondo needs to immediately fill current expansion positions:

Sales Manager
- M/F, not more than 40 yrs old, excellent communication & sales skills
- Previous managerial or supervisory position in sales an advantage
- Can manage sales staffs, set goal, and implement sales strategy
- Experience in mobile devices or office automation an advantage

Channel Marketing / Dealer Sales
- M/F, not more than 30 yrs old, good sales skills and articulate
- Aggressive, self-starter, ability to establish new / grow present accounts
- Previous mobile devices / office automation product experience a great plus.

Account Executive
- M/F, not more than 30 yrs old, good oral communication skills, smart and courteous
- Well-organized and preferably with at least 2 years experience in sales
- Can handle sales pressure, aggressive, self-starter
- Previous selling experience to large accounts a great plus.

Marketing Assistant
- F, not more than 35 yrs old, preferably with previous marketing exposure
- Team player, good communication skills, organized
- Can work with minimal supervision and under pressure

This requirement is immediate. Please hand carry Resumé/Bio-data with picture. For interview Monday to Wednesday at 5/F Enterprise Bldg., 524 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila (near Binondo Church and above Banco De Oro). Or email resumé with picture to comian@pacific.net.ph

moog

We are an organization based in the state of New York U.S.A., a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance precision control systems for commercial aviation and industrial use. Our manufacturing facility at the Baguio Economic Zone is inviting applications for the following:

BENCHWORK FINISHERS

The job calls for a person capable of performing various hand deburring on valve, actuator and machine parts using hand motors, abrasives & hand tools, to ensure burr free/dirt free condition on parts. Person would perform sub-assembly with engineering procedures as may be assigned, and be responsible for quality of work & minor gage & equipment maintenance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A high school graduate
- With one (1) year work experience in trades requiring fine eye-hand coordination on small detailed parts
- Possesses manual skills in working with the manufacture of small to medium sized parts
- Has the ability to work with instructions, engineering procedures and operation sheets
- Capable of light to medium physical demands

JUNIOR MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails-operating and inspecting part outputs on a variety of CNC and/or conventional machine shop equipments ie., drills, CNC lathes/mills, reams, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Three (3) year mechanical/technical/BSIT/BSIE major in machine shop; or High School graduate with general machine shop; or three (3) year engineering with technical mechanical subjects
- For High School graduate with general machine shop course completed, at least two (2) years exposure in related machine shop production activities
- Has skills in blueprint reading, interpretation of charts, usage of basic shop measuring instruments
- Has special knowledge of machining principles and shop mathematics

MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails the performance of a complete range of grinding/turning, drilling, tapping, boring, burnishing, reaming operations on all computer numerical controlled or manual machines. Make all types of set-ups including fixture alignment and settings of tools and stops. Work from part drawings, operation sheets, program sheets. Check for tape errors and worn or defective tools. Manually operate machine independently of tape by dialing in proper information on control panel when required. Inspect own work and use all types of inspection equipment available. Run more than one machine at a time when conditions permit. Set-up machines train and provide guidance for new CNC operators.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 3 year Mechanical Technology/ BS Industrial Technology/ BS Industrial Engineering major in Machine Shop or equivalent as follows:
- At least 3 years in Engineering with general machine shop vocational course.
- High School with general machine shop vocational course and 2 ½ years machine shop work experience.
- With minimum 1 ½ years machine shop experience
- Blueprint reading, use of precision gages like height masters and gages, gage blocks, air gages, etc.

ASSEMBLY TECHNICIAN

The job assembles, according to strict quality and engineering specifications, electro hydraulic and pneumatic servo control components and products. A variety of hand tools fixtures, mechanical measuring devices, electronic test instruments, and hydraulic equipment is used; working from engineering drawings and instructions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Educational background in instrumentation, electronics, electrical, or mechanical fields, either as:
- a graduate of a 3-year technological course; or
- a graduate of a 2-year trade course with at least 1 year related work experience; or
- a graduate of a 6-month vocational course with at least 2½ years related work experience; or
- Having completed at least 3 years engineering with at least 1 year related work experience; or having completed 4 to 5 years engineering.

Moog has a work ethic that demands a great deal from each employee's sense of responsibility, self-discipline, dedication, team work, and expertise. We also offer job security along with a competitive package and a conducive working environment.

All interested applicants will please send or email their full resumé complete with ID picture, telephone number, transcript of records, salary history, and return address (including telephone number), on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 to:

MOOG CONTROLS CORPORATION
Baguio Economic Zone
Loakan Road, Baguio City 2600
Email address: staffingservices@ph.moog.com

MGS Corporation, one of the country's leading manufacturer and trader of premium homebuilding products, is in need of efficient, flexible, and dynamic applicants to fill-up the following positions:

PURCHASING ENGINEER

- ☐ Male or Female, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of BS Civil Engineering or Mechanical Engineering (with PRC License)
- ☐ Willing to work on extended hours
- ☐ Adept in computer applications

CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF

- ☐ Female, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any business course
- ☐ A minimum of 1 year work experience is an advantage
- ☐ Adept in computer applications

HUMAN RESOURCE STAFF

- ☐ Female, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Must have completed a Bachelor's degree preferably in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resource Management or any Business course
- ☐ With excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ☐ A minimum of 1 year work experience is an advantage

ARCHITECT

- ☐ Male or female, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of BS Architecture
- ☐ Preferably with PRC License
- ☐ Adept in computer applications

Interested applicants may e-mail their resume and other credentials at hrd@mgs.com.ph or apply personally at **MGS CORPORATION** office – 3F Homeplus Builders' Center, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Dona Manuela Ave., Pamplona, Las Piñas City. Tel No. 8710740 to 42

DISCOVERY REPORTS LIMITED

Immediate hiring of

JAPANESE SPEAKING RESEARCHER and CALL CENTER AGENT

Discovery Reports Limited is an international media agency that produces business reports on different countries around the world. We are seeking Japanese speakers to conduct internet based research on Japanese companies and schedule interviews with high level Japanese executives on the phone.

Requirements:

- Must be able to read and speak Japanese and be fluent in English
- Willing to work from home and able to work different shifts
- Must possess a bachelor's degree
- Good computer and research skills and internet literate
- Willing to learn, assertive, proactive and self-motivated

Please send cover letter and resumé to: info@discoveryreports.com

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ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CHARITY HOSPITAL

Announces it's opening for:

- ➢ **FIRST YEAR RESIDENTS**
  - v **(1) Department of Surgery**
  - v **(3) Department of Pediatrics**
  - v **(2) Department of Internal Medicine**
- ➢ **(3) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS**
- ➢ **STAFF NURSES**

Interested applicants please call 723-0741 to 43 or visit Admin/Personnel Office at 70 A. Bonifacio St., San Juan, M. Mla.

A first class residential condominium in Alabang is urgently in need of:

Property Manager

Qualifications:

- ➢ Licensed Electrical/Mechanical Engineer
- ➢ At least 3 years experience in the operation/ administration of condominium or hotel building
- ➢ With knowledge/experience in a preventive maintenance of all machineries and equipment
- ➢ With knowledge/training/experience in fire protection system
- ➢ With knowledge in computer (MS Word, Excel, etc.)

Qualified applicants must send their detailed resumé with recent photo to:

HOSPITALITY INTERNATIONAL, INC.
5F Builders Centre
170 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

A construction and design firm is in need of the following:

Structural Detailer / Design Engineer – male with at least 5-7 years experience. Not more than 30 yrs. old. Licensed Engineer. (Urgent requirement)

Project Engineer – Male with at least 5 years experience. Not more than 30 yrs. old. Licensed Engineer.

Equipment Supervisor – Male with at least 10 years experience in handling heavy equipments such as backhoe, cranes, etc. Mechanic in profession is an advantage.

Site Administrative Officer – Male with at least 3 years experience in the related field. Business administration / Psychology graduate, proficient in Microsoft.

Steel Erectors / Welders – Male with at least 10 years experience in the related field. Classified as 4G-6G welder is an advantage.

Operator / Mechanic – Operator of Grader / Backhoe / Crane (Hydraulic and Mechanical). Not more than 40 yrs. old. Mechanic in profession is an advantage.

Interested applicants may send their resumé at 3rd Flr. Fortuna 2 Bldg., Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City. Tel. No. 826-9479; Email: iqconsult@pacific.net.ph. Look for Ms. Tina.

ACCOUNTANTS

Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Proficient in MS Word and Excel
- Relevant work experience
- Above average communication skills

ENCODERS

Qualifications:

- College graduate, preferably Accounting Graduate
- Preferably in MS Word and Excel

Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their recent resumé and credentials (Transcript of Records & NBI clearance) Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. only to:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
Sedeño corner Valero Street
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

INT'L TRADING COMPANY
URGENTLY NEEDS:

MERCHANDISER

- College Graduate, computer literate, of average intelligence
- Must have 5 yrs experience working in Garments export
- Must have good oral & written communication skills

GENERAL CLERK

- College Graduate, computer literate, of average intelligence
- Must have 2 yrs experience in garments export
- Must have good oral & written communication skills

Please send resumé with 2x2 picture at MCPO Box 2312 Makati

We are in need of a

Marketing and Advertising Assistant

- Female , 25 to 35 years old.
- Graduate of Fine arts (Advertising) or Marketing
- Efficient in MS Powerpoint , Coreldraw and Photoshop
- Experienced in formulating / implementing marketing program, organizing product presentations.

Please submit or e-mail comprehensive resume and Transcript of records to:

architecks
METAL SYSTEMS INC.

Architecks Metal Systems, Inc.
533 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
951 2289 to 91 / 931 2602 / fax: 931 1459
sales@architecks.com.ph

Information and Communication Technology company needs an

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Professional and consummate sales person with proven track record in the same or similar capacity.
- Familiar with Information and Communication Technology products and services.
- College degree in business or equivalent is required.

Email application letter and attach resumé (MS Word document) to
apply@centuryasia.com.ph

A highly reputable and regional leader in maritime and petroleum offshore training needs a

TRAINING DIRECTOR

Who has the following qualifications

- Minimum rank and experience as Chief Officer (preferably in oil or chemical or gas tanker)
- At least three (3) years managerial experience on a landbased assignment (preferably in training administration)
- Proven exceptional leadership and people skills
- Forty-five (45) years of age or younger

Compensation package includes:

- Higher than industry average salary (minimum 14 months per year)
- Car plan
- Life and medical insurance
- Continuing management education and development program (company paid)

Please send complete resumé with picture to:

Consolidated Training Systems, Inc.
4th Floor, S&L Building
1500 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
Attention: The Personnel Director

We are inviting all qualified graduates who are well-motivated, dedicated individuals and who enjoy working with children in the Pre-school and Secondary level for our expansion program.

PRE-SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

For Pre-school

- Psychology graduate or BE Ed graduate or any related course

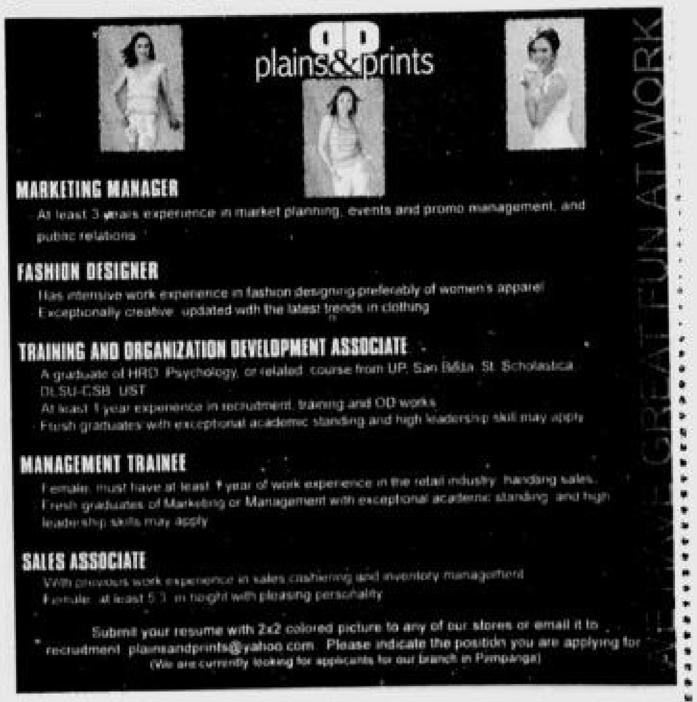
For High School

- BSE graduate or any related course with specialization in the following subjects: **English, Language, Literature & Physics**
- From a reputable school with good scholastic performance
- Preferably LET Passer and/or with M.A. units
- With excellent communication and human relation skills

Interested applicants may send the following:

*** Letter of Intent * Resumé with 2x2 recent colored photo * Transcript of Records * 3 current Professional References**

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
#1011 Tropical Avenue, BF Executive Village,
Las Piñas City, 1740



MARKETING MANAGER

At least 3 years experience in market planning, events and promo management, and public relations

FASHION DESIGNER

Has intensive work experience in fashion designing preferably of women's apparel
Exceptionally creative, updated with the latest trends in clothing

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

A graduate of HRD, Psychology, or related course from UP, San Beda, St. Scholastica, DLSU-CSB, UST
At least 1 year experience in recruitment, training and OD works
Fresh graduates with exceptional academic standing and high leadership skill may apply

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

Female, must have at least 1 year of work experience in the retail industry, handling sales.
Fresh graduates of Marketing or Management with exceptional academic standing and high leadership skills may apply

SALES ASSOCIATE

With previous work experience in sales cashiering and inventory management
Female, at least 5'3 in height with pleasing personality

Submit your resume with 2x2 colored picture to any of our stores or email it to recruitment: plainsandprints@yahoo.com. Please indicate the position you are applying for
(We are currently looking for applicants for our branch in Pampanga)

A Food Ingredient Company needs

1 - FOOD TECHNOLOGIST
1 - R&D CHEMIST

Qualifications:
- Female
- 21-26 years old

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST:
- B.S. Food Technology graduate

R&D CHEMIST:
- B.S. Chemistry graduate

Preferably one or two years working experience in Food Institution or Food Manufacturing.

Send to: P.O. Box 19399, SAN JUAN
CENTRAL POST OFFICE,
SAN JUAN, MM, 1500

- Comprehensive resumé
- Records of grades

!!!! URGENT !!!!

AL SIDDIQI INT'L GROUP
DOHA, QATAR

SALES LADY – F
- 21-28 years of age
- 5'3" in height, with pleasing personality
- At least college level; Good in English
- With/Without experience

DESIGNER (EMBROIDERY)-M
- Very good in pattern making
- Professional in hand-made skills
- Good English

QUALITY CONTROLLER-M/F
- At least 3 years experience local/abroad
- Good English

BAR ENCODER – M
- At least 5 years experience
- Good English

Qualified applicants are requested to submit personally their resumé, passport copy, school/employment certificate to:

KU-8 INT'L PLACEMENT AGENCY
POEA LICENSE #118-LB-052703-R
Rm. 1574-B Gedisco Bldg., 1564 A. Mabini St.
cor. Pedro Gil, Malate, Manila

For Manpower Pooling Only/Beware of Illegal Recruiter

A Company in the business of advertising photography is in need of the following:

PHOTOGRAPHER'S LIGHTING ASSISTANT
- Graduate of 4 year course, preferably Fine Arts, Com. Arts
- Male, 21-26 years old, of good moral character
- Must be proficient in both oral and written English
- Must be computer literate with knowledge of Mac and Adobe.
- Those with at least one (1) year experience in advertising (agency, clients or suppliers side) preferred.
- Must have valid Driver's License.

Interested applicants are requested to fax resumé to 724-6009. Or email at photoassistant@indigoentertainment.com.ph

BOOKKEEPER / ADM. ASSISTANT
- Accounting graduate, preferably from reputable Metro Manila University
- Female, 21-26 years old, of good moral character
- Must be proficient in both oral and written English
- Must be Computer literate with knowledge of Excel and MS Office
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in General Accounting.

Interested applicants are requested to fax resumé to 724-6009. Or email at bookkeeper@indigoentertainment.com.ph

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
HVAC ESTIMATOR

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION
BSME/BSEE

Please Apply Personally to:
RALGO INDUSTRIES, INC.
406 Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 932-3271 / 931-1306

WANTED

STORE MANAGER for Business Convenience Center providing services on copying, mail, email & fax, computer, internet, printing, digital printing, riso graph. Must have at least 5 years experience in this field. College Graduate, Honest, Responsible, Can Work Long Hours, etc. Mail picture & resumé to P.O. Box 1260, Manila 1000

Our company is looking for

LOUNGE CREW
- Male/Female, Minimum 2 years experience
- 25 to 29 years old
- Minimum 5'2" height for female and 5'5" for male
- Strong service orientation
- Good body proportion, with pleasing personality

KITCHEN CREW
- 20 to 30 years old; all around
- Male/Female; Minimum of 2 years experience
- With pleasing personality

Please call 3762046 or 3762298
Fax: 3748424
Or send resume to 4th Floor Crossroad 77
No. 77 Mother Ignacia Avenue corner
Sct. Reyes St., Paligsahan QC
Or email :
energywellnessintl@yahoo.com

Manos Outsourcing

(Your Human Resource Specialist)
Unit E Rizalina2 Bldg., 1675 Quezon Avenue, QC
Tel 926-9857 / 411-2630

URGENT EMPLOYMENT

- **CALL CENTER AGENTS** – 18-33 yrs old; excellent in English; w/ sales experience
- **WAREHOUSE CLERK/ COLLECTOR/ MESSENGER/ MERCHANDISER** – Male, 21-30 yrs old with experience
- **FOOD TECHNOLOGIST** – Male/Female, 20-28 yrs old with at least 6 months experience
- **GRAPHIC ARTIST** – Male/Female, w/ experience, bring sample work
- **PHOTOGRAPHER** – Male/Female, w/ experience, please bring sample work
- **PROMODIZER/ BEAUTY CONSULTANT** – Female, 20-25 yrs old, at least college level, with sales experience
- **CUSTOMER PRODUCT SPECIALIST** – Male, 21-30 yrs old, Electronic/Computer Engineer, or w/ knowledge on computers, with sales experience
- **HR ASST.** – 23-27 yrs old, 1 yr experience in Employee Relations, recruitment, selection & benefits administration.

Bring resumé w/ picture and pre-employment requirements
e-mail: aspec@mozcom.com

FE Del MUNDO
MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION, PHILS.
11 Banawe St., Q.C.

Needs the following positions for Immediate Hiring

Senior Radiology Technologist
Social Worker
Admin Assistant
Engineer
Human Resource Manager
Part-time Dietitian
Pharmacist

Please submit your resumé, transcript of records and other credentials to:

Box Q.C. 2005-46
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg.
891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St.,
Cubao, Quezon City 1109

Cognigent Inc. is in need of a

SECRETARY
- College graduate
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Dependable

Please bring resumé to:

Unit 905 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza
#11 Annapolis Street, San Juan

IMMEDIATE HIRE
SERVICE CREW

- at least college level
- with pleasing personality
- experience in food retail service
- least height reqt.
  - male-5'3" • female-5'2"

☎ **Call Lanie, tel.374-1083**
office hours only

For immediate hiring at a Fine Dining Chinese restaurant at Greenhills

RECEPTIONIST

Must have pleasing personality, at least 5'4 in height, 20-26 years old, single. We offer competitive industry rate, allowance, free meals. Call & look for Alex Buiza at 722-55-08 for information.

Law Firm looking for

Bookkeeper / Junior Accountant

Can keep complete set of books and produce timely Financial Statements

CPA an advantage but not required

Please send your resumé with attached photo at

A.A. Amador Associates
Unit 1612 Tower One, Ayala Triangle
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
manila@aaamador.com.ph

Optitech
Machine Tools

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SECRETARY

Female not more than 25 years old. College graduate of any course.Must be computer literate. No experience needed.

CAD/CAM PROGRAMMER

Male or Female, College graduate of any course. Must be smart and computer literate. Can work under pressure. No experience needed. Send your resumé at bri_angph@yahoo.com

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We are in need of:

GENERAL MANAGER
- 25-30 years old, female
- graduates of Accountancy/Business Administration
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When should you just say no to e-mail?

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Say What?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

I just read about a big Hollywood star who decided that he was going to seek a divorce from his spouse of 22 years. He didn't sit down to talk to her about this. He didn't even give her a call. Nope, he e-mailed her about it.

Unfortunately, he's not the only one who has broken his vows through e-mail. Many of us have e-mailed someone over something that was far too important, far too nuanced, far too personal to e-mail. Below is a list of times not to hit send. For more, check out "The Boss's Survival Guide" by Rosner, Halcrow and Levins (McGraw Hill, 2000).

Don't e-mail big stuff. Don't e-mail an announcement about a merger, acquisition, reorganization or downsizing. If it's a big deal, then you need to tell your people face-to-face. Reading a major announcement in an e-mail isn't as bad as reading it for the first time in the newspaper, but it's close.

Don't e-mail policy changes that will generate questions. Changes in sick leave or vacation time policies or benefits coverage will generate questions. As a general rule, anything that hits someone's wallet should be explained face-to-face.

Stop e-mails that become a tennis match. We've all known e-mail debates that have volleyed back and forth more times than a tennis ball at Wimbledon. If an e-mail goes back and forth more than three times—and especially if the distribution list gets bigger—that's a sure sign that the discussion is bigger than e-mail. Call a halt and bring people together to resolve the issue.

Don't put anything confidential in e-mail. That includes salaries, comments about performance, etc.

Don't put anything in e-mail that you don't want to see in the newspaper or hear in court. Now that organizations as diverse as Microsoft and the White House have found their internal e-mail printed in newspapers and read in court, you know that even "private" e-mail is not really private.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Nor can it be easily deleted. Which leads to the big issue—are you hiding behind your e-mail? Some managers rely on e-mail in lieu of face-to-face conversation. It's especially tempting when people are off-site such as telecommuters, vendors, or independent contractors. E-mail is more easily misinterpreted because it doesn't allow for give-and-take discussion and people aren't guided by facial expressions and vocal intonations. And the more dependent you are on e-mail, the more mysterious you become. Even the Wizard of Oz learned that being the man behind the curtain only gets you so far. Go down the hall, hang out in the lunchroom, or pick up the phone at least some of the time.

Follow these tips and what you are trying to say won't get divorced from the way that you say it.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best describes your experiences with e-mail?

—I don't e-mail period, 2.5 percent

—I e-mail but I'm paranoid about it, 28.5 percent

—I hit send and let the chips fall where they may, 30.6 percent

—I don't e-mail anything important, 38.2 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

Workshop prepares Filipino writers...

From page 10★★

de Ungria, Neil Garcia, Christina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Bien Lumbera, Charlson Ong, Carla Pacis, Jun Cruz Reyes, Roland Tolentino and Rene Villanueva.

The workshop was a timely event as it commenced a few weeks before the deadline for the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Armed with affirmations and suggestions from the panelists, a number of the fellows revised and submitted their works to the award-giving body with confidence and hope.

Writer's challenge

Aside from the opportunity to interact with established writers and critics, the fellows were also enlightened on the different contemporary discourses in Philippine literature and new genres in writing. The topics were chosen to prepare writers to compete and contribute in a highly globalized environment.

Joi Barrios believes that the writer carries a grave responsibility. "As writers who reside in a "Third World" country, it is only requisite that we ask ourselves: what informs our creative works? How do we participate in the discourses in our society?" Barrios queries. She goes on to say that the craft of writing should already be a given for writers. What they should ask themselves is, "what do we want to say?"

Gender sensitivity

As part of the workshop's program, the issue of gender discourse was impressed upon the writers. Because the sociocultural development of gender is often overlooked during the creation process, the workshop stressed its importance. It is the hope of the writers that by increasing gender sensitivity in the writing process, the Filipino identity may be established. It is a pressing concern because in an increasingly globalized society, ethnicity often takes the backseat to cosmopolitanism.

"It would lessen the tendency to gloss over differences between genders under siege from globalization. For example, writing about poverty from a gay man's point of view is different from writing about the same issue from a woman's perspective," explains fellow Chuckberry Pascual.

Literature and technology

Globalization is also often closely connected to technology. The country most adept in the latest technology can cope more competitively in a globalized world. It is, therefore, no longer enough that a writer has mastered the techniques of the craft and brimming with fresh ideas. With this in mind, the workshop educated the fellows on how to make technology work to their advancement as literary artists. In an open forum, the panelists emphasized how the Internet can help writers disseminate their works to broader audiences. Technology can also offer alternative forms of cost-effective publishing. Issues like digital divide and techno-literacy were discussed as well.

"We also touched on how technology as a discipline has influenced form and content of poetry—from SMS language, use of technological metaphor, etc. It struck me that despite the diversity of the views on literature, its nature, its role in society and its relation to technology, the forum was a dialogue and not a debate that was simply about two sides, either black or white. It was a dialogue across generations and perspectives!" shares another fellow, Cathy Candano.

Exploring other forms

The workshop became a venue for exploring other forms and genres in creative writing. Writers were urged to compete through newly recognized genres like creative non-fiction. Although not a widely accepted form of literature, Dalisay and Tolentino claimed that it is slowly growing popularity with Philippine publishers.

Other forms of writing like, children's literature, and musical plays were delved into. The discussions were complimented by discourses on the politics of romantic and erotic literature and postcolonial criticism. De Ungria pointed out the importance of postcolonial criticism because "criticism makes up our signposts."

An exhaustive exploration of each topic also touched on the possible financial returns of each genre, which isn't much. The good news is most writers write for the opportunity to express themselves, to make sense out of unsettling times, to create meaning and relevance out of the most mundane things, to rally for a cause and mostly for the sheer pleasure.

The workshop once again reminded the young idealists of their true purpose as writers. As fellow Carljoe Javier puts it, "We indulge in our heartaches and personal conflicts but the theme asked us to situate ourselves in the context of global issues. It tasked the young aspiring Filipino writers to address and engage the great turmoil of our times through art, to make that art relevant."

(*E-mail the author at* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

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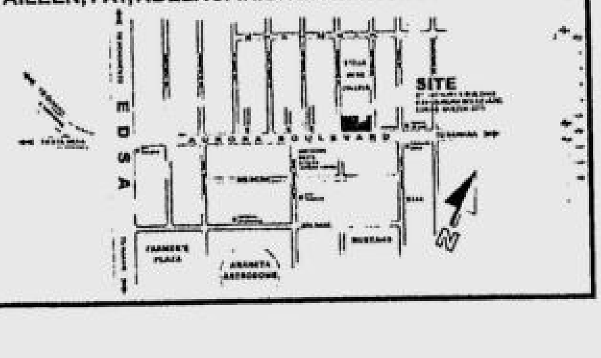

Exit your rat race

By Megan Tough

WE CAN all get in a rut from time to time. Who hasn't had a moment in their lives where you've asked yourself the question: "Why am I doing this?" Whether it's who you've become, the business you are in, your career, relationships, where you live or all of the above—sometimes you realize you're just not where you want to be—and you're not sure how you got there! It sure feels like your own version of a rat race though.

If where you want to be in your life is not where you are, then maybe it's time for you to drop out of your very own rat race. Sometimes the only way to "win" a race (where there can be no winner) is to just stop running.

1. **Springclean your mind.** If you feel as though you don't have time for anything, especially thinking about ways to do things differently, it's time for a time-out. When we are busy and occupied all the time, we are usually reacting to things going on around us, rather than acting out of choice. So make an active choice to take a rest, a vacation, talk it out with someone you trust, blow off steam, do whatever it takes to get some perspective about your situation. Just this simple step will make you feel more in control, and can help to streamline the energy you'll need for the changes ahead. The idea is not to just get out of your rat race but to go towards a more fulfilling way of living

2. **Get real.** The reality is that you can't change anyone else's behavior but your own. So it's a good time to stop wishing that people would act differently so that you could feel better. Also, it's time to make alternative plans just in case you don't win the lottery or get a salary increase. This sounds harsh, but people who wait for things to happen to them are usually waiting a long time. Don't wait for chance or fate to step in. Figure out what it will cost (in time, energy, money, etc.) to make the changes you know you need to make. Then figure out what it will cost not to.

3. **Change your focus.** When was the last time you thought about where you wanted to be in five or 10 years time? We get so caught up in "doing" things—for the business, for work, for others—things we think we should be doing, that we take no time to consider what we really want. Forget the race. Think journey. Rat race brings to mind competition with others and running around in circles. The moment you drop out of your rat race you begin a journey. Get selfish. Focus on where you are now and where you want to go.

4. **Pack light.** There's something very cathartic about taking time to clean things out—getting rid of the old to make way for the new. You could start with a room in your house, your e-mail address list, or old beliefs that aren't adding value to you anymore. In every situation there is a good lesson to take with you, something of value to keep. Even if it's only, "Well that's a place I know I never want to be again"; there is something worth keeping. Any situation, and your perception of it, is part of who you are. Identify specifically what it is you want to keep and what you'll leave behind. Be brutal. You may even miss some of the things you choose to leave behind; that's all part of the process. What you will find is renewed energy for new things that you want to include in your life—a great start to exiting your rat race and beginning on a new journey.

5. **Create a map.** This is a vital step. Taking the time to think about yourself, and where you would like to be. Nobody else's map will do here—it's time to do some hard thinking for yourself. What are the core values that you'd like to base your life around? What do you love to do or to be? What gives you a sense of purpose? What do you stand for? What could you not be dissuaded from believing in, no matter what? If you had one life to live this time round what would you do with it? These are tough questions and their answers are part of the journey. Don't freak or feel guilty if you don't know the answers straight away. For the impatient and perfectionist people reading, this is not a test—there is no pass or fail. So don't treat it like one. The more you know about yourself, the more you will be able to start drawing your own map.

6. **Head for the life! (Not the lifestyle.)** Do you know what the difference is between having a life and maintaining a lifestyle? A lifestyle is something we are told we need by society, advertisers and parents. Life's luxuries, although nice to have, can be expensive financially and in the energy spent getting them. Perhaps the energy spent maintaining a lifestyle might be better used turning your life into an expression of who you are. A lifestyle buys comfort. A life buys satisfaction and contentment. The best bed in the world only makes for a comfortable sleepless night if you lack contentment. If your lifestyle impedes you being who you are then dump it.

7. **Go for your ideal.** If it turns out that you drop out of your rat race and into your perfect life, would you even know it? Create a vision of where it would be, who you're with, what you're doing. Design it around your passions, beliefs, values and loves. Remember, just like spending your money, if you don't know what you want from your life there's plenty of people around who will be only too glad to tell you.

8. **Look out for the rough bits.** Choosing to live your life in your own way is tougher than staying in your rat race. Of that be sure. Temptations will abound to take a few laps round the old racecourse when the going gets tough. Our old comfort zones are traps waiting to lure us back into our old ways. By being aware of this and planning for how you'll cope you will get through. Anything different can be scary. But it can also be fun too!

9. **Enjoy the trip!** You've recognized where you don't want to be any longer and identified where you do. Now live where you are. Learn from the past and move on. Plan for the future but live in the present. You can't do anything about yesterday, so stop worrying about it. If you spend every minute think about tomorrow then you'll never enjoy today. And that's where all the action is!

10. **Go for it.** No more excuses. Nothing more to say. Just do it.

(Megan Tough, leadership and business coach, works with executives, managers and business owners to develop their skills as leaders and effectiveness as business people. To learn more visit www.megantough.com.*)*

How college graduates...

From page 10★★

of what "right company" and "right industry" means depending on your needs and values. Other careers in the same industry, or in different industries will have different working conditions, different rewards systems, different compensation packages, among others.

Not that grim

The unemployment picture does not really look that grim even though our economy is not as bright as we all hope it would be. There is no need for people to work abroad because there are jobs for people who are right for them right here.

Getting the right job nowadays is still possible even in the face of seemingly widespread unemployment. The thousands of job vacancies advertised in print and in the Internet are just the tip of the iceberg. There are many more jobs that are filled through referrals by employees of companies or by networking.

'Unemployable' graduates

However, let me cite to you the results of a survey conducted by the prestigious Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) in 1998. According to the recruitment managers from reputable companies who were interviewed for the survey, there are three factors why most college graduates are unemployable for entry level positions in four career areas, namely, accounting and auditing, programming and IT, marketing and sales, general clerical and other administrative positions.

These three factors cited in the PMAP study, were the reasons for the failure of college graduates to be employed, and to be employed in the right jobs. These are: 1) lack of, or inadequate, basic entry technical skills, 2) poor impact (i.e, lack of self-confidence shown in overall bearing and poise, personality and appearance) and 3) poor communication skills (i.e. college graduates have difficulty expressing themselves in correct grammatical and conversational English, which is the language of business in our country and in the world). Thus, it takes them one to two years to get employed, and moreover, they tend to be employed in jobs which are not related to their career choice and educational background. This results further in low productivity, low morale and motivation, and a low self-esteem.

(Second part to be published on May 15.)

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc. a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

DOLE's job search through...

From page 10★★

The BLE report also showed that the top 20 vacancies posted in the system are professional nurse (2,206), technical support staff (1,540), sales executive (1,318), production machine operator (1,256), production worker (1,110), customer service assistant (885), domestic helper (601), staff nurse (416), waitress (355), waiter (258), legislative staff assistant (200), merchandiser (180), typist (155), cook, (138), electrical engineer (137), mechanical engineer (131), electronics and communications engineer (124), instructor (120), electrician (107), and medical X-ray technician (106).

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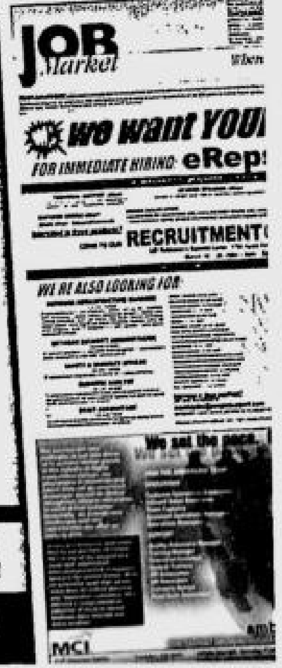

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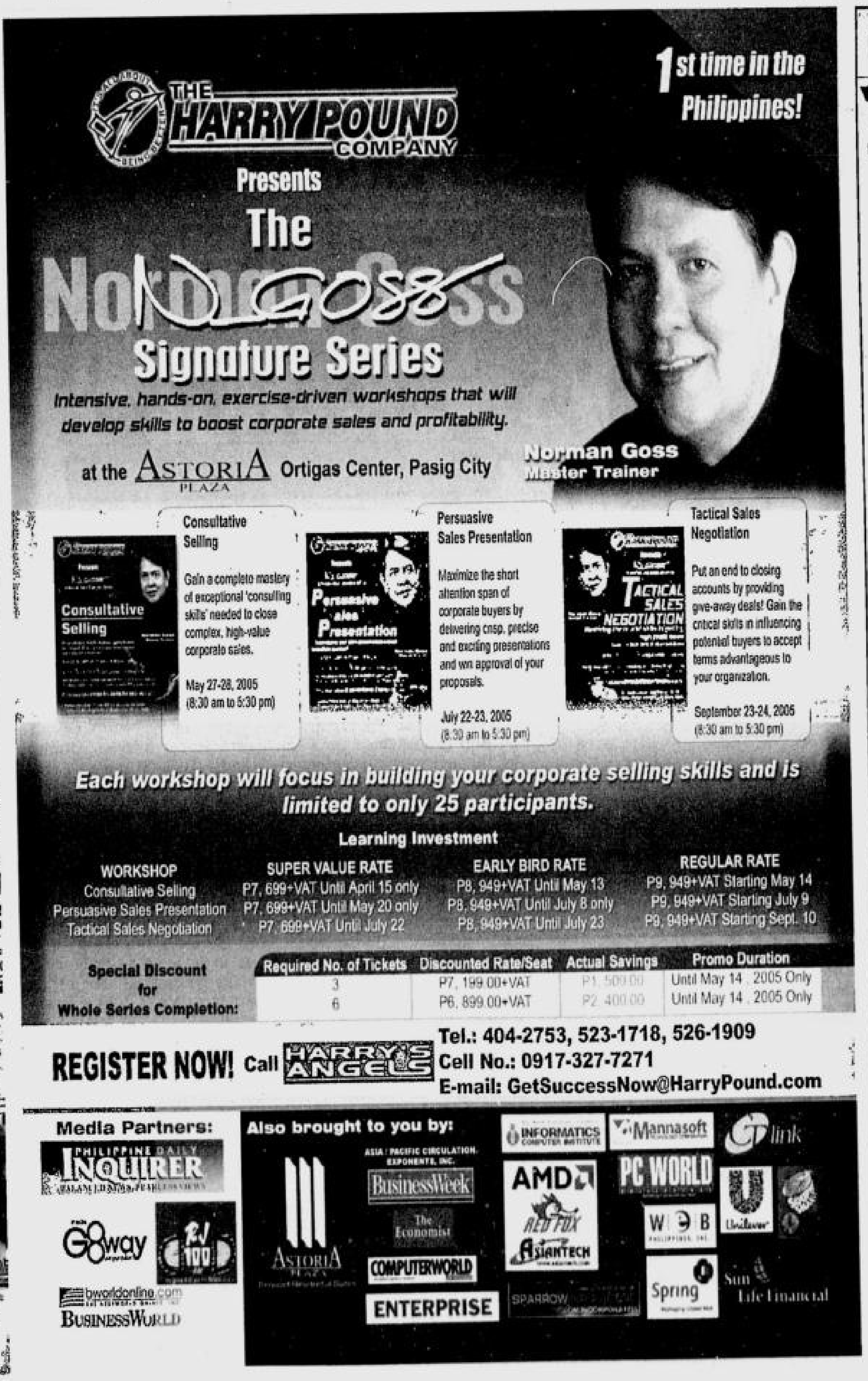

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How college graduates can find the right job

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

BEFORE our graduation from college last month, our guidance counselor helped the graduating students prepare our respective resumés. I sent mine to about 10 companies. I received a call for interview with five of them but until now I'm still waiting for a job. What shall I do? How can I get a good job? I'm becoming nervous and anxious because about half of my batch mates are already working. Please advise me on what to do to get a good job.

Ms Anxious

You are right about your wanting to get a good job. To me, a good job is one that is right for you. The right job is one that is suited to your career interest, strengths of your personality, your skills and aptitudes.

Being in the right job is part of the process that starts with knowing the right career, taking up the course in college to prepare you for it, then applying for an entry level job in that career in the right company and in the right industry. You are in the right company and right industry if the working conditions, rewards, relationships, etc. satisfy your needs and enable you to live your important values.

Advantages

It is important to get the right job because your performance in it is the basis for future success in your career and in life. It is in the right job where you will use and hone your knowledge, abilities and skills, where you can actualize your potentials, and in the process, you become the kind of person God meant you to be. You derive the benefits of being successful in your career in the form of self-fulfillment, self-empowerment, happiness and material rewards.

When you are doing what you enjoy doing, you are most productive and you get the added benefits of recognition, promotion, more pay and perks such as local and foreign travel—things that all people, regardless of age, want to have. In other words, if you love your work, you will excel in it and the rest will follow.

Marketing career

For example, you have made a choice of marketing and sales as your career. So you have taken up a BS in Business Management, major in marketing and sales. Your entry level job would either be that of a marketing assistant or sales representative, depending on your interests and personality.

Then you apply and get hired by a pharmaceutical company as a medical representative. Together with other newly hired representatives, you go through rigorous classroom sales training for two to three months. Afterwards, you are assigned a territory and you are given a list of doctors, hospitals and drugstores to cover. Your classroom training leads to the on-the-job training by your supervisor whose coaching further develops your competencies, self-confidence and personality. You are guided in giving presentations to doctors about the benefits of certain medicines to get them to prescribe these medicines.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

After passing your probationary period, you are given a brand new car to use in your work and in servicing your doctors. You are provided a daily per diem to take care of your meals. The company gives you a gasoline allowance and takes care of the maintenance requirements of your car. You are part of a district or area team and your sales supervisor continues to coach you as he or she works with you. Hitting monthly targets pleases your supervisor; exceeding your quota is a cause for celebration for the team.

This is just a brief illustration

HOW/P. 9★★

Workshop prepares Filipino writers to succeed in face of globalization

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

NATIONAL Writers Workshop participants PHOTO BY CANDY VILLANUEVA/CONTRIBUTOR

NINETEENTH century French writer Jules Renard once said, "Writing is the only profession where no one considers you ridiculous if you earn no money." This is small consolation for the struggling artist, for in this period of globalization when we do not only compete with each other but with the best in the world, the reality is writers also need to feed their families.

In an effort to prepare budding writers in this period of globalization, the University of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing (ICW) recently conducted the 44th National Writers Workshop with the theme "Ang Manunulat at Globali sasyon (The Writer and Globalization). Twenty writers were selected out of 125 applicants from all over the country to participate in the two-week live-in summer workshop at Inn Rocio in Baguio City.

In good company

In line with the depart ment's aim "to stimulate writers from all parts of the country, to create and contribute to national cultural development," the ICW sponsors the annual workshop. One of the ICW's major outreach programs, the workshop was instituted in1965. Over 900 writing fellows have graduated from this workshop. Most of them have gone on to be celebrated writers like their workshop mentors.

For years, the highly coveted slot as a fellow has been viewed by aspiring writers as an opportunity for affirmation and a chance to be mentored by the best in the industry. Works in different genres either in English, Filipino or any regional dialect, are constructively critiqued by highly esteemed masters of the art and the selected writing fellows. After the workshop, writer fellows are expected to go home with a clearer idea on their capabilities and are expected to continuously improve their craft, contribute to society and eventually compete in the global age.

The 44th UP National Writers Workshop, held from March 27 to April 9 this year, was graced by luminaries of creative writing which includes Vim Nadera (ICW director), Joi Barrios, Jimmy Abad, Rio Almario, Jun Balde, Butch Dalisay, Ricky

WORKSHOP/P. 8★★

DOLE's job search through text service starts today

THE GOVERNMENT's first job search facility through the use of the short messaging system (SMS) or text, called Trabaho...I-Text Mo, can be accessed starting today, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) announced.

A timely offering for Labor Day, Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said Trabaho...I-Text Mo complements the computerized Phil-Jobnet system, the DOLE's skills and matching online facility, which brings together employers posting their vacancies and workers registering their availability for employment in the Internet. Through the SMS facility, workers may inquire on vacancies posted in the Phil-Jobnet, Sto. Tomas said.

The facility, she said, strengthens the DOLE's labor market information (LMI) system and firms up its e-link backbone further via a 24/7 interconnectivity between the Filipino skills and legitimate, decent work opportunities locally or overseas.

The Phil-Jobnet system, accessible round-the-clock in the Internet at http://phil-jobnet.dole.gov.ph comprises the country's basic LMI system under the jurisdiction of the DOLE. This is in line with its mandate, through its Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), to develop, maintain, and enhance the computerized jobs-and-skills matching facility to make these constantly accessible to all public employment service offices, Philippine Overseas Labor Offices and global and nationwide clients.

DOLE Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr. said the Trabaho...I-Text Mo facility, adjunct to the Phil-Jobnet system, may be accessed by simply typing Trabaho and sending it to 2476 for Smart subscribers or 2376 for Globe subscribers.

Bitonio said all available jobs in the system would then be shown on the screen of the texters' cellular phones. Conveniently, a jobseeker may also specify the location of the jobs he or she is searching (e.g. Quezon City, Bulacan, Saudi Arabia) or the specific position he or she is applying for (e.g. clerk, nurse, engineer).

According to him, there are 15,531 job vacancies posted in the Phil-Jobnet system as of April 25, 2005.

A BLE report showed that vacancies posted in the Phil-Jobnet are from the industry (1,338 or 8.61 percent) and service (14,193 or 91.38 percent) sectors. In the industry sector, most of the vacancies are in the manufacturing (1,205) and construction (133) subsectors.

n the service sector, vacancies are available in the following subsectors: real estate, renting and business activities, (4,620); other community, social and personal service activities, (4,371); public administration and defense, compulsory social security, (2,936); financial intermediation, (1,103); wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and personal and household goods, (961); hotels and restaurants, (169); transport, storage and communications, (15); health and social work, (15); and education, (3).

DOLE/P. 9★★

Muffling the Spirit of truth

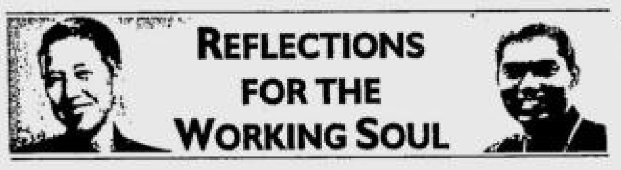
By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN A WORKPLACE where worldly gain is the end all and be all of everything, the Spirit of truth is the one value that is most likely to be taken for granted.

When we work only for profit, prestige, ambition, winning at the expense of others, truth tries to manifest itself through many ways but it is distorted, squelched, disguised, glossed over or totally trashed.

For instance, we cling to a job long after we've outlived its usefulness simply because we can't face the truth that the job no longer needs us. Also, a department's productivity level remains low because the employees there muffle the Spirit of truth by covering up for one another's wrongdoings (petty theft, bribery, etc.). Another instance when truth is violated is in fraudulent advertising—exaggerated claims are made regarding a product's qualities to deceive consumers and boost its sales. Unscrupulous contractors at building construction, as another example, can cause disasters to happen by being untruthful and cheating on the materials used. And again, on a more widespread level, unprincipled media practitioners twist the truth to serve selfish purposes.

Truth can be deadened in any kind of work one does, and this could lead to dire consequences from the personal on to the universal sphere. The violation of truth, indeed, can grow into an entire culture of lies, impeding true human progress. But when we work guided by the Spirit of truth Jesus gives us, authentic progress becomes a reality for all. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)


REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

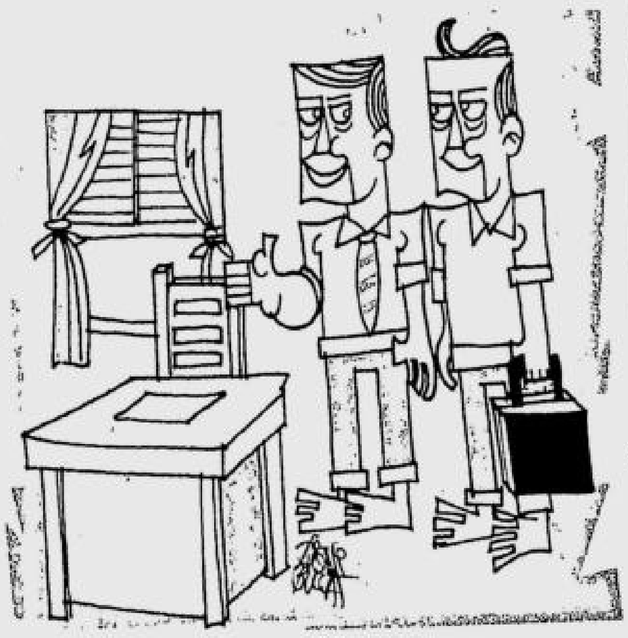
The deeper meaning of life

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

RECENTLY, I installed into office several priests in their new assignments for the next six years of their pastoral work. During the installation rites, some of the faithful thanked me for sending them priests whom they "liked very much, because we have seen how well they have done their jobs" and some priests were also very grateful and happy in taking the assignments which corresponded to the "parish of their choice." As I thank God for the seemingly happy events, I also wondered how the faithful and priests would have reacted if they did not get what corresponded to their liking or choices?

Our reactions to people and situations like, "receiving a new boss" or "taking up a new job" depend upon the values and beliefs which determine our inner attitudes and the consequent behavior we show towards them. If we have the values of the world—output, productivity, efficiency, maximum profit, power, and self-aggrandizement and all that is necessary to put the self at the "center" or at the "top of the world"—then we welcome with joy whatever will boost our ego. Anything, however, which would threaten our ego or which is simply not to its liking would be ignored or even opposed.

However, if we accept the "Spirit of truth" which Jesus promised to give to His disciples, we will be able to understand the deeper meaning of our life, our work and people around us. With the Spirit of Jesus, we would welcome everything and everyone pleasing to our taste or not, as precious gifts from God, our loving Father and what we do with them would also be our gift to Him. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.)



Gospel: John 14: 15-21

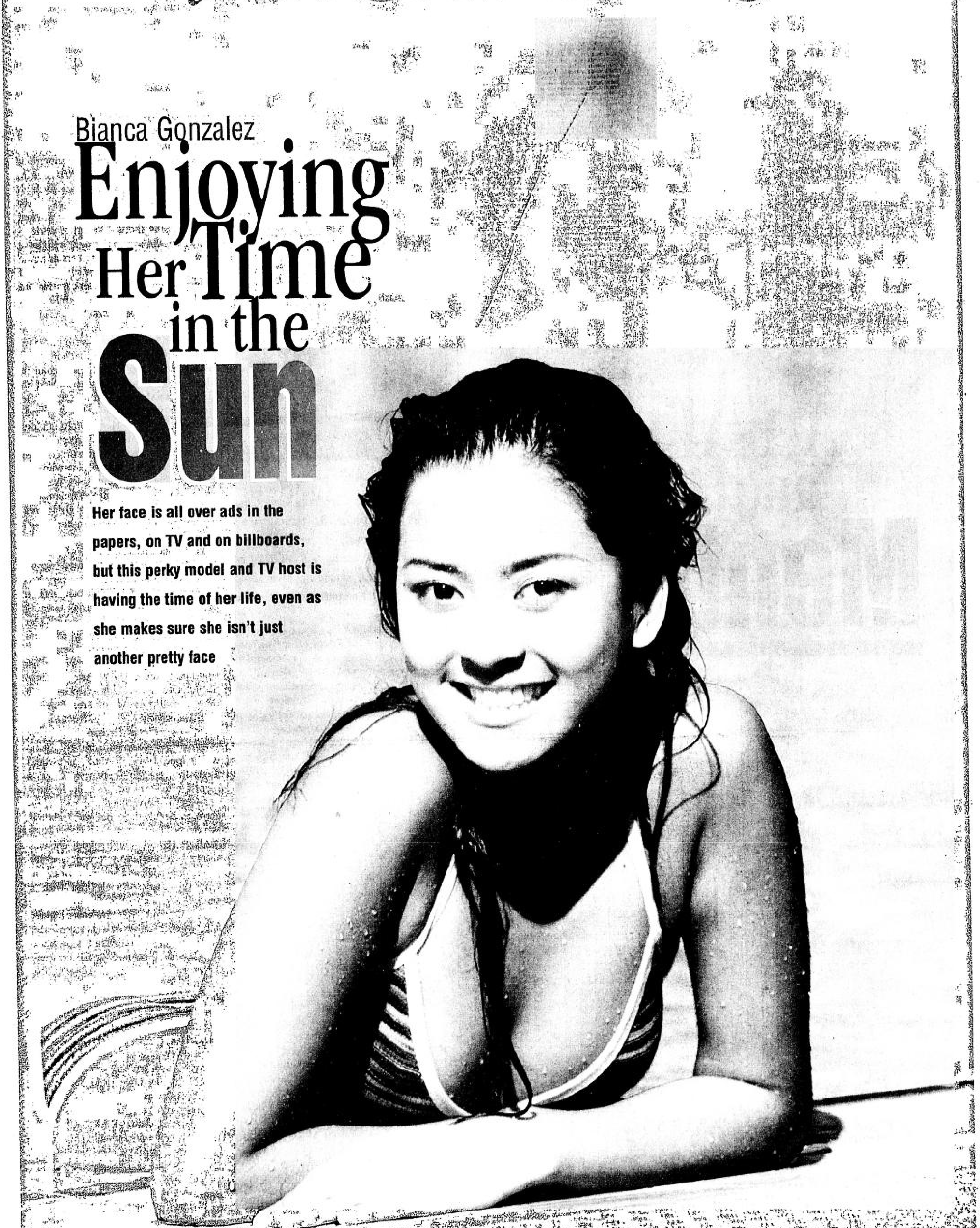
And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it.

What's inside

Working Wounded: When should you just say no to e-mail?
p. 8★★

Exit your rat race
p. 9★★

May 1, 2005
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Bianca Gonzalez

Enjoying Her Time in the Sun

Her face is all over ads in the papers, on TV and on billboards, but this perky model and TV host is having the time of her life, even as she makes sure she isn't just another pretty face

by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

SHE wasn't afraid of the snake. Whenever people meet Bianca Gonzalez for the first time, the topic of Bianca's towering billboard over Guadalupe— an ad for Pink Soda, for which she cuddled up with a rather large reptile—comes up. They ask her if she was scared of the snake. "I did ask the trainer if the snake had been fed," the 22-year-old model and TV host says with a big smile.

That smile (remarkably genuine), those eyes (amazingly bright), and that figure (surprisingly tiny and streamlined) have turned Bianca into the freshest fresh face among the hordes of new models that seem to be multiplying even as we speak. In fact, Bianca herself seems to be everywhere at once, as her campaign for Globe has overrun TV, newspapers, magazines and city streets.

It all is a bit of a bracing experience for Bianca, even though she's been modeling for more than five years now. Take the huge Globe ad on Edsa near Timog. "The one on Edsa is the most *exagg* thing ever," she says, eyes very wide. "*Talaga,* I remember I was on my way to work and I stopped at the stoplight. *Lumingon ako*—and it was so surreal, the attack of the 50-foot woman! But at the same time, I was, like, that's me!"

It does make sense that she's here at this point. Bianca Monica M. Gonzalez is the youngest of three children to businessman Chito Gonzalez and banker Ofel; older brother J.C. is a TV host-turned-producer, while Aissa is an interior designer. Bianca attended Dela Salle-Zobel prior to attending the Ateneo. She graduated last March with a degree in Communication and a minor in Philosophy.

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hairstyle and makeup
by **A.J. Baguio**
photographed at the poolside of the
Renaissance New World Hotel
Special thanks to
Monique Toda

An Artist and Her Mentors, *p.2* • This Doctor's Secret for Longevity: Live It Up!, *p.5* • From MNLF Fighter to Community Peacekeeper, *p.6*

Artwatch

by *Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz*

Recently honored by her alma mater, St. Scholastica's College, Anita Magsaysay-Ho recalls her early teachers and the experiences that molded her into one of the country's leading modern painters

An Artist and Her Mentors

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AT THE recent College Commencement Exercises of her alma mater, St. Scholastica's College, Anita Magsaysay-Ho was honored with the PAX Award, conferred annually to an outstanding alumna whose achievements have contributed "to the upliftment of the life of our people and our country."

It is little known that Anita, today acknowledged as a foremost modernist and a giant in Philippine contemporary art, studied in the college from Grades 4 to 7, and considers those years with the Benedictine Sisters a major influence on her life. She and her older sister Ramona, to whom she was very close, were transferred from the Jefferson Primary School, the only school in Paco where they lived, because their mother felt it was time they went to a Catholic school. Anita and Ramona were in the same grade in the public school because when it was time for Ramona to enter school, Anita cried and insisted that she had to go, too.

She says Ramona was the more popular student, gregarious and excelling academically. Today, when Anita meets former Scholastican classmates, she is amused that they have no recollection of her, only of Ramona. "I was very quiet and did not talk to anyone." Though she was once punished and made to stand in the corridor for an hour because she had used the wrong pen for a story assignment, Anita appreciated the strict discipline of the German sisters, who insisted on writing all school work with a special pen dipped in black ink. What trouble she had trying to keep her arithmetic tests neat, because all answers were to be written in red but underlined in black ink! She was better off in handwriting, an exercise she enjoyed because the script had to be shaded—a process akin to the art that she enjoyed even as a little girl. All that has not been for naught, because today, at 91, Anita writes in lovely, graceful script.

Saving the day

It was her tears that again saved the day for Anita when, as a 10-year-old sixth grader, she was informed by her arithmetic teacher Sister Rita that she had failed the subject and would have to repeat the grade, since she was a year younger than her classmates, anyway. She was not surprised, for she knew her paper was untidy and she did not know her longitude and percentages. But what was heartbreaking for her was to be separated from Ramona. "Without her I would feel so insecure," she recounts in "An Artist's Memoirs," her autobiography published in 2000.

She wept so hard that Sister Rita of the small frame and blue eyes softened and said, "It is only in arithmetic, anyway. You must promise to do well next year." She did not have to be retained in the grade, after all.

Sister Renata from Alsace-Lorraine, a province of France that was taken over by the Germans but returned to France after the war, was beautiful, like a movie star, Anita recalls. There was also Sister Angelina, who taught them sewing and working with tulle and lace, something Anita was miserable with. They may have been made to memorize the Bible and know the Gospels well, neither an easy nor a pleasant chore for children, but she enjoyed school and even envied the *internas*. Anita and her sister were mere half-boarders, taking their midday meals in school, with the staple dish of eggs cooked in tomato sauce.

After Grade 7, their mother thought it best for the two girls to transfer to Philippine Women's University for high school because it was owned by family friends, and the Magsaysays owned some shares there. The artist remembers how she continued to be religious, even looked up to by her peers as a role model. Ramona, who was studious and always knew all the answers, graduated high school valedictorian, while Anita was, in her own words, salutatorian "by sheer luck."

Her earliest memories were of drawing on any piece of paper that was available and needing to stand on a chair in third grade when she was chosen to draw a grasshopper and an ant on the board. It was on her beloved grandmother's lap, her Nana (Ramona del Fierro Corpus, mother of Anita's mother, Amalia) that she took her first formal art lesson at age 9. It was Nana who discovered that the young Anita was not making any progress in the mandatory piano lessons for all young girls then, mastering only one piece in her repertoire.

Prof. Irineo Miranda of UP's School of Fine Arts began to give Anita regular drawing lessons at home. Her very first drawing was a copy of a black man from an illustration in the Saturday Evening Post that her father subscribed to. Her father, Ambrosio Magsaysay of Zambales, was a government *pensionado*, manager of the Metropolitan Water District, and president of Magsaysay Lines until his death. His eldest brother, Exequiel, was the father of President Ramon Magsaysay.

No question

Anita's relationship with her Nana was a special one, so that when Nana died, this grandma's pet wept for a month and refused to talk to anyone—until she realized she had to relearn to be liked by her own siblings again.

At age 13 and in high school, she was allowed by her family to continue her art lessons in UP, as a special concession from university officials and with a maid in tow each time.

After high school, there was no question where Anita would study. Her classmates at UP in the landscape painting class of Fernando Amorsolo were Galo Ocampo and Cesar Legaspi, but she never said a word to them because she was under strict instructions to speak to no one. Other classmates she likewise ignored then were Botong Francisco and Vicente Manansala. Anita was also very shy, and looked neither to the right nor left as she walked to school. "I must have looked so unapproachable myself," she admits.

Her graphic arts teacher, Prof. Vicente Dizon, referred her to Bishop Louis Morrow when someone was needed to illustrate the reader "My Jesus and I." Anita was delighted, because she had envied her classmates, who had been hired to draw flowers and plants for the Bureau of Plants. But what a shock to be asked by the bishop if what she drew was a hand or a claw! She spent hours after that in intense practice, sketching hands and feet till she had perfected the art.

To pursue further courses in painting, she studied at the Art Students' League of New York and the Cranbrook School of Arts in Michigan. While in New York, she stayed at the International House, where she was far from being homesick because of the many friends she made. At a typical gathering with Filipino students who were also International House residents, like Alice Jose and National Artist Leonor Orosa, Anita met the legendary Jose Garcia Villa. He announced to everyone, "Anita should never marry. She should just have affairs"—a shocking comment for someone who admits to being a square then, and being proud of it.

It was in New York that she met

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Sunday Inquirer Magazine May 1, 2005
Vol. 19 No. 9 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

ICE-Y TREATS Keep cool during the hot summer days at Richmonde Hotel's Lobby Café where Ice-y Treats of refreshing concoctions are served from sunup to sundown. Choose from among the delightful Ice-y creations of Fresh Mango, Sweet Corn, Pineapple Lychee, Buco Pandan, Almond Lychee and Almond Black Gulaman or put together your own quencher from an assortment of ingredients which includes ice cream, *nata de coco, langka* and *pinipig*. Available until June 11. For reservations, call 638-7777. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

TRAVEL TIME

Please relay to the group my interest in Viaje del Sol ("Yes, They Know The Way To San Pablo," **SIM**, 10 April 2005). I operate Pacific Asia Leisure in Manhattan and actively participate in our travel group, APTA. Emma Ruth Yulo, the Department of Tourism head of Metropolitan New York based in the consular office in Manhattan, can serve as reference. I would appreciate regular updates via e-mail and periodic flyers. E-mail addresses from the group would be appreciated.

RUBY AQUINO
President, Pacific Asia Leisure
Lincoln Bldg.
42nd St. New York, N.Y.

You can contact Boots Alcantara at casa_sanpablo@yahoo.com - Ed

EYE OPENER

That was a great story on Susan Roces ("A Classic Face Stars In Her Gritty New Role," **SIM**, 17 April 2005). I saw a few of her movies when I was back in the Philippines, but the story about her was really an eye opener. I think this tells you that the lady was behind the success of one FPJ. Kudos to the writer for giving us insights on what could have been a great First Lady. More success to your paper. To you Ms. Roces, I salute you for your honesty, integrity and being the cornerstone of the great FPJ.

JAY ILEJAY
Sacramento, California
filejay@sbcglobal.net

SIMPLE AND SPIRITUAL

I read with interest your article on Joey Espino ("Standing Tall Among Pinoy Fashion Giants," **SIM**, 24 April 2005). It is heartwarming to read that a simple and spiritual person like him exists in a ritzy environment like fashion and modelling. I work in a retail company, and I had the chance to work with Joey in the past. He is a down-to-earth, talented and hardworking person. I have great respect for him. Keep it up, Joey, and God bless you!

VIVIAN B. PADILLO
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Ja Rule the Day

SMART Buddy Welcomes Ja Rule to Manila

"Make some noise!!!" Like a modern-day Pied Piper onstage, there stood one musician. In the cavernous Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, fans of hip-hop music flocked to watch the maestro known as Ja Rule in concert. The man who made chart-topping hits like "Holla Holla", "Always On Time", and "Living It Up" is the first true hip-hop giant to grace the Philippines, and SMART Buddy made it possible! For the 29-year old music superstar, the journey to the Philippines is proof positive that hip-hop, the music that he lives and breathes, is a global phenomenon.

Fans of Ja Rule trooped to "The Big Dome"for this once-in-a-lifetime chance to watch a true music superstar live and in action. SMART Buddy subscribers were able to get tickets by purchasing a SMART Buddy phonekit and downloading any ringtone, polytone, MMS image, logo, etc. at any SMART Wireless Center in Metro Manila. By texting JARULE and sending to 209, you can bring the man right into your celfone.

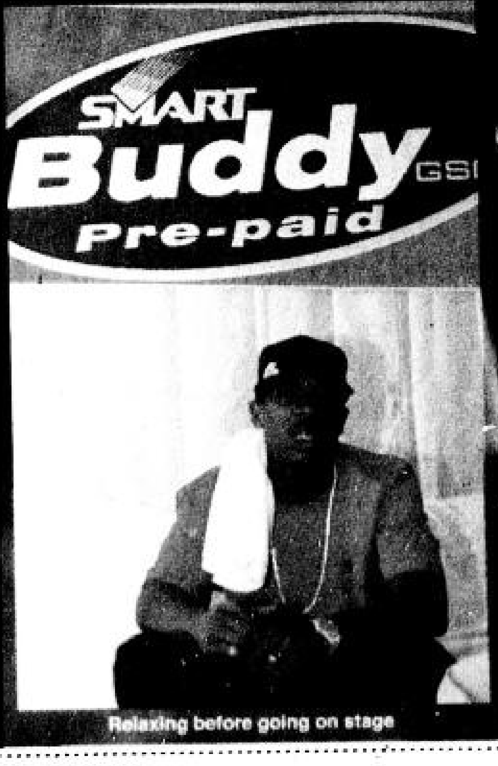
The concert itself was a throbbing, pulse-pounding experience that Filipino hip-hop lovers had been anticipating for a long time. After warming up to Seven Shots of Wisdom, Sun Valley Crew, and Arianna, it was finally time for the main event. True enough, Ja Rule delivered in spades. Hit after hit after hit resonated from the stage, whether it was "Between Me and U", "Clap Back", "Always On Time", or "New York", the audience grooved along to the beat. Ja Rule even found the time to pay tribute to departed rappers Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G.

After his performance, Ja Rule was gracious enough to sit down for a short interview. "Hip-hop is the biggest form of music right now, but it's relatively young. I mean, it's only 30-years old," mused the artist born Jeffrey Atkins in Queens, New York. Ja Rule made a splash on the music scene by producing and collaborating on some of the biggest hits of the new millennium. After working with as varied a group as Ashanti, Jennifer Lopez, and even Metallica, he said that he doesn't necessarily go out to look for people to make records with. "Sometimes, I'll just hear voices or music in my head and it's just a matter of looking and saying 'Who has that kind of voice?' to make that song work."

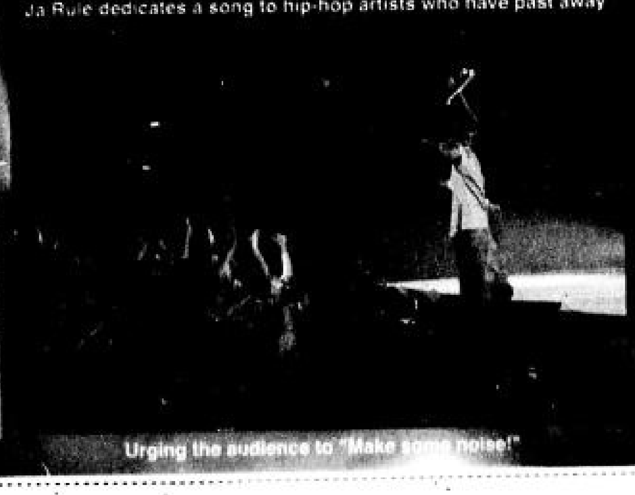
After expending all his energy to perform, his mission to spread the rhythm and message of hip-hop was accomplished. Earlier in the evening, Ja Rule mentioned that he's working on a few different things right now. Not just another album, but also movies, as well as working on his clothing line with fellow musician Irv Gotti. With his hands dipped in various interests, one thing is quite clear: hip-hop is indeed here to stay, and Ja Rule is glad for it. As much as Manila's hip-hop lovers loved Ja Rule's concert, SMART Buddy was delighted to bring Ja Rule to the Philippines. Watch out as SMART Buddy promises to bring more world-class performers before a Filipino audience in the future!

The Araneta Coliseum crowd shows their appreciation

Ja Rule dedicates a song to hip-hop artists who have past away



Relaxing before going on stage



Urging the audience to "Make some noise!"

The Word

Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Rising from the Dead

I felt Jesus daring me to defend Jonah, to forgive and love him unconditionally and see with the eyes of faith the face of the "condemned Jesus" on the pale and frightened face of this condemned man before me

JONAH (not his real name) was a "throwaway child." His mother threw him away at birth, and disappeared.

The hospital staff gave him to an elderly nun who brought him to the convent where he stayed until he was five. Then the Sisters gave him to an aging couple who took care of him until he was 12. He was then sent to work for a Chinese merchant who maltreated him, and then to an abusive employer who neither paid nor fed him well. So Jonah ran away and hung around with other streetchildren in Cubao.

A social worker picked him up and brought him back to the Sisters who handed him over to the aging and now ailing couple. The couple requested the Sisters to bring him to our Center.

Meanwhile, the old nun and the old couple (whom Jonah claimed he had loved as his own kin) passed away the same year, leaving the "throwaway boy" suddenly without roots.

Jonah had become a difficult child. He was a slow learner, a pathological liar and a congenital asthmatic. The psychologist said that his negative behavior could be traced to "prenatal malnutrition and childhood trauma." Jonah was a broken and hurting child who never truly experienced belongingness and parental bonding. As a growing boy, he was aware only of having been a "disposable" child wherever he was "dumped."

I asked Jesus to help me with a problem like Jonah. The Spirit told me that Jonah was not a problem to be solved but a person to be loved. Again, I asked Jesus to grant me the power to love an unlikable street-smart urchin like Jonah. I guess the Jesus-in-me worked overtime through the six years Jonah was with us.

I sat with him for hours on many nights just to listen to his cries of pain. I was amazed at how the Jesus-in-me could hug him the way only a father or a brother could. The rest of the community thought I was being *kunsintidor* (too indulgent). Some even advised me to "throw him out"—again. But I refused.

On his 20th birthday, Jonah told me he was ready to move back to the old house of his late foster parents where his "brothers" and "sisters" and their families were staying. I let him go.

But his foster family threw him out after some time. Jonah had to return to his street peers for support. Sometimes he would drop in at our Center for Sunday Mass, for meals and for a badly needed bath. Almost always he walked away with some cash and other things he stole from the house. Jonah had become a petty thief. "To survive," he said with a straight face. "I have absolutely no one to turn to for a job. I am a grade school drop-out, no read, no write," he chuckled impishly.

One night after supper, we heard someone enter the house. We chased him and caught him on the rooftop. He was able to break open a wooden cabinet, trying to steal some loose bills from a box. He turned out to be Jonah.

Our CMY boys instinctively collared him and wanted to beat him to a pulp and dump him at the police station where I knew he would be violently hurt again. Knowing the heart of Jonah since he was a little "throwaway child"—rejected by his own mother, ignored, abused and dumped by many others because of his congenital and situational disabilities, and now trying to survive in the only way he knew—I felt Jesus daring me to defend Jonah. To strive to forgive and love him unconditionally and see with the eyes of faith the face of the "condemned Jesus" in the pale and frightened face of a condemned Jonah before me. I visualized Jesus taking the side of the woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8) and of the repentant thief crucified with Jesus on Golgotha (Lk. 23:39-43). I saw tears forming in Jonah's eyes as he looked at me that night. I let him go.

I felt funny doing that but I also felt like I was rising from the dead.

What is more important than anything else,
says the Lord,
Is that you believe
Not only in my resurrection
But in your own resurrection...

Every time that you recognize
Love as the only law,
You rise with me.
Every time that your heart opens itself
To the truth of the other person,
To his pains, to his joys...

Every time that, without tiring of it,
You forgive the one who offends you,
Every time that, notwithstanding your doubts,
You are convinced that the Spirit will overcome....
Every time that, when the day sets,
You have made way for me,
You are rising from the dead.

Noel Bompols

Bianca is happiest when surfing and blogging

Bianca

...from page 1

It was J.C. who started it, actually. "He was already doing commercials, even TV, and *parang* it was something I wanted to do but nothing definite," Bianca recalls of her late grade school years. In high school, she immersed herself in inter-class plays.

In spite of some ill-fated VTRs, Bianca really wasn't making serious attempts at becoming a model until her freshman year at Ateneo. It is the prototypical scenario: Bianca was walking in a mall, and she was pulled into having her photo taken for Pantene's promo. The unsuspecting Bianca won the top prize and became the face of Pantene's new campaign.

Now everywhere

That's when the modeling really began. She would do the occasional TV spot, but most of it was magazine work. Meanwhile, Bianca was nurturing art house dreams of being a director of short films after college. When she was in third year, she got a bit bored with school and was recruited to write for Studio 23's Concept Development Group, and was thus under the aegis of Enrico Santos for a year. After appearing on the cover of a glossy, Bianca met future manager Jet Valle of Backroom. "And it all changed," she says.

Three years ago, Bianca did the GenText campaign. She was recalled to effectively lead the new Globe G2P surge as the central figure in a texting triangle with Brad Turvey and Geoff Eigemann. Then her spot for Nestle Yoghurt began running again. All of the sudden, Bianca was everywhere: on billboards on Edsa, texting from inside your television and reading aloud from magazines.

She also began exploring the possibilities of television, hosting to her heart's content on the defunct, lamented "Review Night" on Cinema One, which she hosted in its last months. She accompanied the colorful talk show "Y Speak Live!" in the program's switch from ABS-CBN 2 to Studio 23. Her gig on "MTV U Break" just wrapped up. If some guys are a tall drink of water, then Bianca is an unmistakable shot of Baileys in the morning, as one of the telegenic hosts of Studio 23's "Breakfast." On weekends, Bianca faces the footlights as a host on ABS-CBN's "Stardance."

The hosting and modeling gigs have made Bianca a familiar face, but she insists that a full-fledged showbiz career isn't for her. She can't sing, she says ("except for Magic Mike"). "I'm not an actress. I know it can be learned, but it's not my passion, unlike other people. I love watching local teleseryes and movies, but I can't imagine myself in them. My passion is hosting." It was a fairly late realization, something she realized while already working, in fact. "As long as someone would get me to host TV and model, I'll do it."

Already, she's unbelievably busy. Bianca arrives for the pictorial at the Renaissance New World Hotel, straight from a taping in Baguio. Then she has to scoot off to Quezon City for another pictorial. She recalls once having to stay awake for 38 hours straight, and then going for three straight weeks working. Yet she's still into it. "It's fun, and at the same time I'm really passionate about it. Even if I'm tired, it's a fulfilled kind of tired, so it keeps me going."

Super indeed

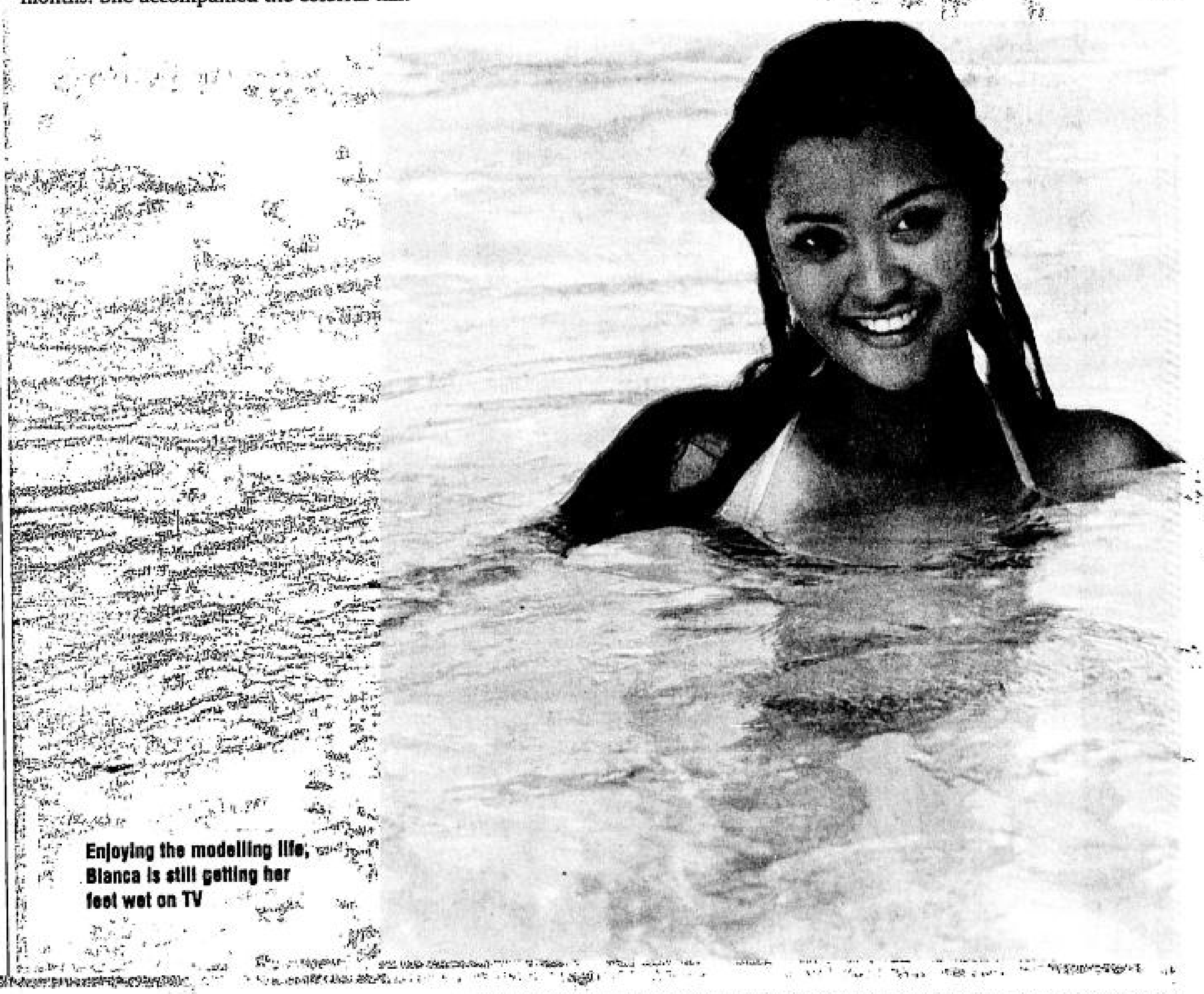
And at a time when celebrity is its own intoxicant, Bianca is refreshingly unaffected. She arrives sans entourage or posse, having just stopped for some coffee. When she laughs, it's an unaffected, wide guffaw, all teeth and eyes. She considers herself playful and prone to laughter and uses the expression "super" without it ever getting on your nerves.

Being Bianca means still going home the family house in BF Parañaque. It mea looking forward to trips to the beach. means watching an unbelievable amount TV, and not just any TV—cartoons. "My f vorite is 'Hey Arnold!,'" she says, referrin to the Nickelodeon animated series. "I like a 'Wonder Years' kind of thing."

It means giving herself up to the lure the movies, but only as a besotted audien member. She is a super movie fan, and h favorites: "As of now, 'Eternal Sunshine the Spotless Mind' and 'Romeo + Julie There are things she treasures, like her c WJE, a silver Honda Civic, so christened a ter the three letters on her plate numb She loves junk food (thank God for a fa metabolism). There is her collection of Co verse Chuck Taylors. And there is her App Titanium G4 PowerBook, festooned wi stickers. "People either hate it or love i she explains. "Some of them say, 'It's like a art school thing,' but others say, 'Why d you do that?!'"

It is on that PowerBook that Bianca do two of the things she, uh, super enjoy blogging and surfing the Internet. Bian just grazes in front of that flickering scre for hours on end. And she loves posting her blog site (http://superbianca.blogsp com), which she has kept since 2003. S loves it when people post comments. "Wo people actually take time to do that. Wow She tries to respond or at least ackno edge everybody who drops by. By the wa Bianca likes saying "wow" a lot, too. In nice way.

She still has fun when people recogni her. And she absolutely enjoys the countl clothes she gets to try on. "I consider mys a clothes person. I like modeling becau they style you, and I like clothes, but ever thing else that goes with being kikay, I'



Enjoying the modelling life, Bianca is still getting her feet wet on TV

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jeans by PINK SODA

not into." For example, she's not really into makeup. "I'm not high-maintenance at all, but I can look presentable when I have to. I look at myself as simple. Super."

Comfortable as herself

What has also helped her as a model and host is that she's clearly comfortable in her own skin. It took some doing, as she says that she was "super *itim*, and *payat* (really dark and skinny)" as a kid. And believe it or not, she still has her insecurities: "Super. *Madami*! Typical Pinay body, particularly my legs, *kasi* typical Pinay kid, played a lot in the street, *puro peklat* (all scars)." And contrary to what people may think, life isn't perfect, even for models like Bianca. "Would you believe someone stole my cellphone a month ago?" she says incredulously. It's the fourth phone she's lost somehow. She's using a borrowed phone at the moment, presumably to text Geoff and Brad. Or not, since Bianca says she's staying single by choice right now.

One is tempted to worry about overexposure, about not growing, but Bianca isn't worried. She's just really enjoying herself and working very hard. "I want to flow naturally, so *bahala na*. I know it can all go away super fast, as much as I'd want to do this until I get old, but there are so many other things I want to do. I'd like to study film, and eventually direct someday. I'd like to save up enough to take my master's in philosophy and then teach."

But mostly she just wants to keep doing what she's doing right now. She's 22. Her face lights up the highways at night. Her image brings the television to life. Bianca Gonzalez can do whatever she wants. Right now though, she's waving goodbye with a big smile, slinging her bag over her small shoulder, crossing the street nimbly in flip-flops, off to the mall by herself, perfectly fine. ◘

To Your Health

I'm with the band: The doctor, right, taking five with buddy Richard Merck

This Doctor's Secret for Longevity: Live It Up!

He's lived a charmed life, with a miracle or two to help things along. The best way to repay God for that, says this 86-year-old medic, is to enjoy life—listening to live music, savoring good food and enjoying the company of women

"LIFE'S too short," says Dr. Luis "Sito" Santayana, slicing off a piece of Black Angus porterhouse steak, medium rare and nicely marbled, putting it in his mouth and chewing with evident pleasure. "You should enjoy it the way you want to enjoy it."

Many people in their thirties and early forties couldn't even look at a steak without keeling over from the (imagined) cholesterol, but the thought, it seems, hasn't even crossed Santayana's mind.

"Sometimes I have this for breakfast," he admits. That would be at three or four in the morning, after a night out listening to a jam session at Merck's, or dancing the rhumba with one of his dates, a blue triangle in his pocket and a naughty twinkle in his eye.

At 86, Santayana is enjoying his retirement, at a pace that leaves people half his age in the dust. How many 43-year-old men do you know who can step out every night until two or three in the morning, and still be up at six for a round of golf? To be fair, Santayana retired at age 70, but he says he has been living this lifestyle since he was a medical student during the Japanese occupation, and in fact attributes his longevity and good health to it.

"People ask me, what's the secret of your long life? I tell them it's the music, and the people who make it. Monday to Saturday I'm out every night. I prefer jazz but I love all kinds of music. If I listen to a good set, I can sleep very well—and I only sleep four hours a day. At my age, I don't want to waste my life sleeping, because when you sleep, you're dead: *ilang oras na lang natitira ko, itutulog ko pa?* (I've only got a little time left, and I'm going to sleep it away?) I've been like this since I was a medical student—*laman ako ng* (I'm a regular of) Roxas Boulevard *hanggang* Bayside."

And it has to be live music. It's not just the music per se that Santayana enjoys, but the company of the musicians who make it.

Out every night

"I love musicians—*magaganda ang puso nila* (they have good hearts), and they enjoy what they do," he says. "It's no fun being old, you lose your friends and relatives. Most of my friends are young people half my age, and most of them are entertainers and musicians because I'm out every night so I know most of them."

Occasionally, Santayana will host a party for his musician friends, just for the heck of it. He will also go to great lengths to hear music. One time, he rented the Shangri-La Hotel ballroom and invited 200 guests just to hear the Ugoy-ugoy Band play. "*Ganoon ako kahilig sa* (that's how I love) music," he says.

Santayana hails from the seaside town of Unisan in Quezon, the only son of a family of modest means. The surname Santayana is fairly unusual.

"I did some research on the American philosopher George Santayana," he says. "I found out that his mother was the daughter of an American consul to the Philippines, who married a Juan Ruiz Santayana who was *gobernadorcillo* of Bataan. I don't claim any relation, but Juan Ruiz's sisters have the same names as my aunts, so there might be a connection somewhere."

In any case, when Santayana was in high school, he drew up a list of the things he wanted out of life. One of them was to be a doctor. After taking up his pre-med in the University of the Philippines, he entered the University of Santo Tomas college of medicine, and was doing his internship when the war broke out. The Japanese occupation failed to dampen Manila's nightlife, however, and that was when Santayana got bitten by the jazz bug. He would go to the Sta. Ana cabaret and the nightclubs along Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard to hear the likes of Tirso Cruz, Iggy de Guzman, Serafin Payawal and Pete Aristorenas—the big band leaders of the day.

One of them even invited Santayana to his house, which turned out to be a compound in Tondo where the bandleader had three wives living in three adjoinining houses, with several children, all of whom could play an instrument. The compound, Santayana recalls, was one big jam session.

Even after he got married to his college sweetheart, Santayana kept up his nocturnal forays. His wife tried to keep up, but eventually gave up, especially after they had five children.

Career height

Santayana eventually established a thriving practice in industrial medicine, overseeing the clinics of several multinational and local companies, but even at the height of his career, when he was juggling these clinics and a private practice, he still kept up his lifestyle.

"People say I must have good genes, but I don't," he says. "My parents died of a heart attack, my father at 68, my mother at 70. It skipped me, but it hit my children—two of them are dead: one of uremia at 34 and the other of cancer at 42." Of his surviving children, one has also suffered a heart attack.

But Santayana is in miraculously good health. His cholesterol level is normal. His prostate is normal. His blood pressure is slightly elevated, but hey, he's 86.

"It's kept under control with one pill," he says. "That's the only medication I take—other than Viagra, which I take *pag kailangan lang* (as needed)."

He was never a drinker, being allergic to alcohol, but he used to be a heavy smoker. He quit smoking at the age of 70, after 55 years, when a few friends died of lung cancer, but his lungs are in good shape. And he hasn't had a fever or a flu in over 50 years.

Luck might have something to do with it. Or divine intervention. Santayana believes that God might have given him a little help at least twice in his lifetime.

"When my eldest son was two, he developed a rare disease called nephrosis," he recalls. "It's a kidney ailment where urine secretion is impaired, and at that time (the late 1940s) there was no treatment. It came to a point when his whole body swelled up with edema, he couldn't urinate and fluid was coming out of his skin. The doctor told me to take him home, because there was nothing more to be done. I thought to myself, what had I done to deserve this kind of suffering for my son and my wife?"

Although he wasn't a believer in such things, Santayana decided to walk on his knees the length of the aisle in Quiapo Church. By the time he reached the altar, his knees were bleeding. When he got home, much to his amazement, his son began to urinate, passing

To page 7

Lucky guy: The bachelor enjoys the company of women

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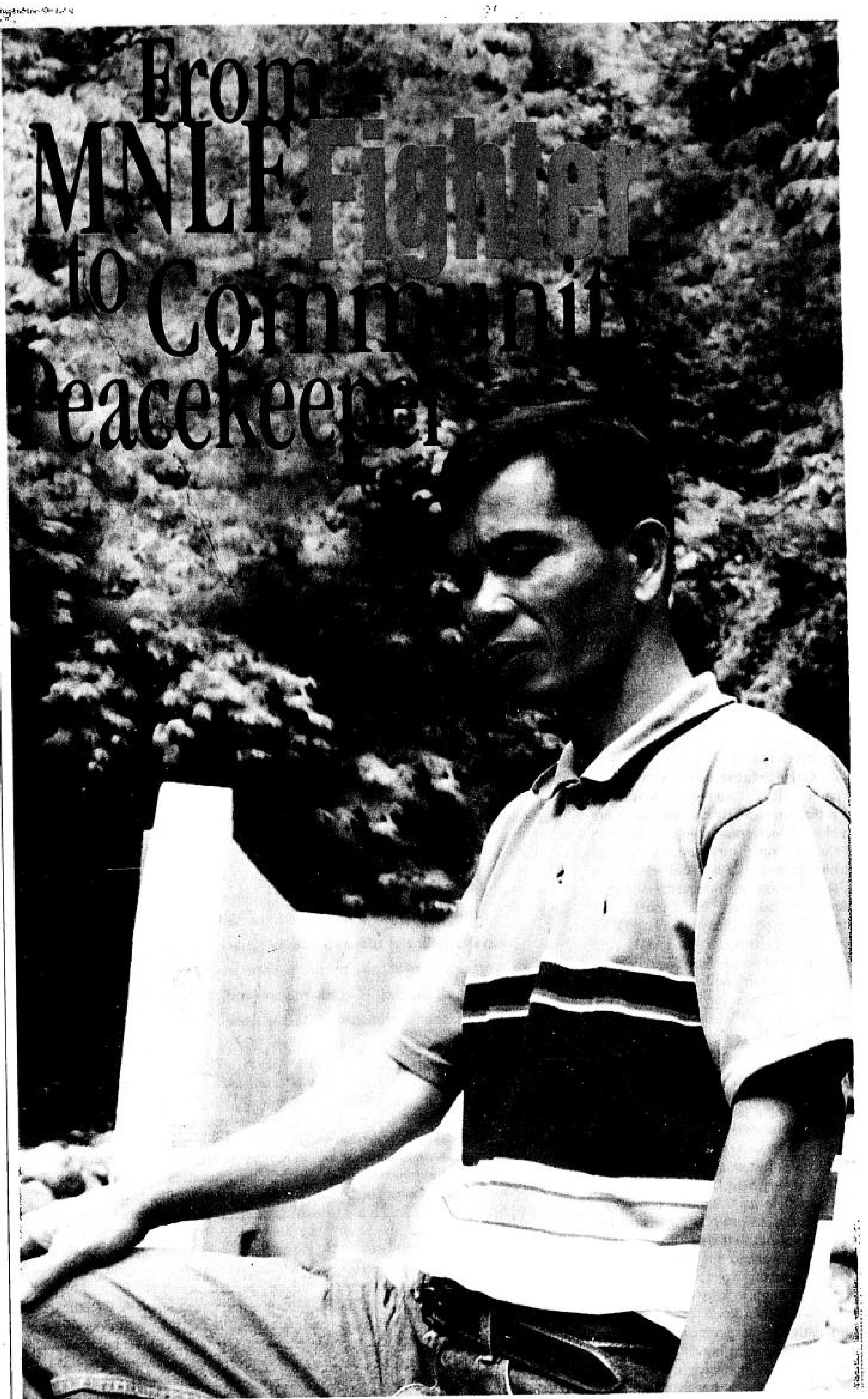
Twists of Fate

text and photos
by Maria Congee S. Gomez

From MNLF Fighter to Community Peacekeeper



This former MNLF commander traded in his weapons for water systems and fertilizer. After a lifetime of war, the man they called *Kumander* Gubat espouses forgiveness, and dreams of peace and productivity in his homeland

HIS REAL name, Mohammad Mambatawan, commands respect among the 30-plus households in the mountain barangay of Chua in Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat. They look up to him as a harbinger of peace. Among fellow combatants in the mid-'80s, he was "*Kumander* Gubat," and his name struck fear in the hearts of military troops, politicos and businessmen.

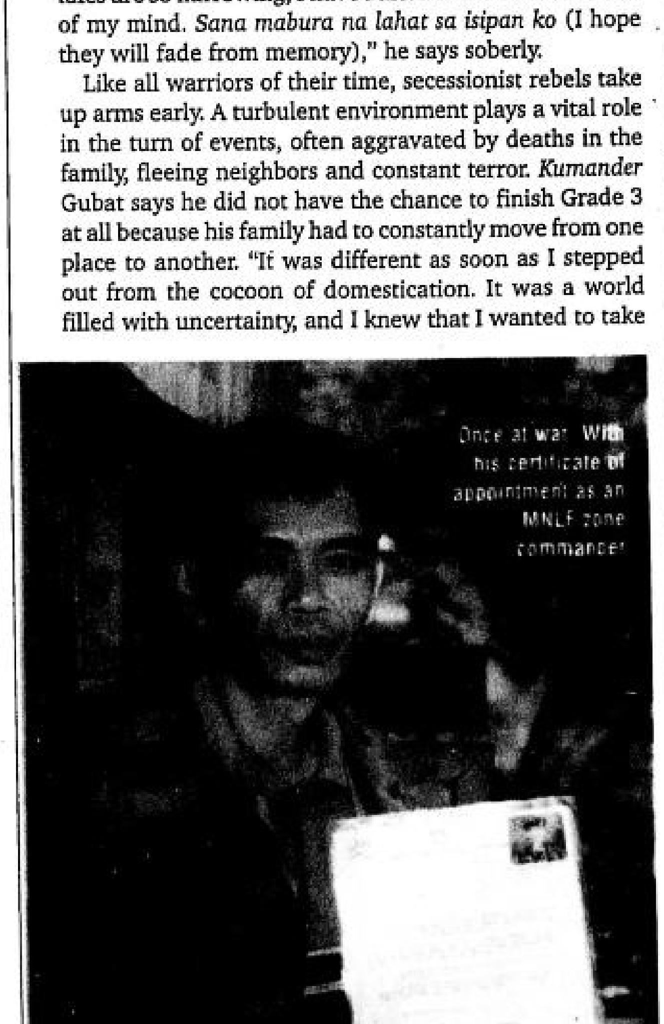
About 750 meters above sea level, amid Daguma Range, in a wooden house he helped build, *Kumander* Gubat's wife of close to 12 years, Babay, shuttles between where the children are huddled and where her husband is seated. She serves guests steaming cups of black coffee and joins in the conversation to affirm her husband's narration: "We lived in fear in the past. We moved from one evacuation center to another. We were suspected of being sympathizers to rebels, and what a price to pay thereafter," says Babay.

The 5'8" *Kumander* Gubat listens to his wife's recounting. It isn't his way to interrupt conversations. He appears more absorbed in gazing at the Daguma Range. He remembers how thickly forested the area used to be, and how it became the subject of disputes between political figures and big businessmen. *Kumander* Gubat was then a zone commander in Central Kutawato of the Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee, military arm of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the biggest Muslim secessionist group fighting for an independent state for Muslim Mindanao. Under his command were four battalion commanders. His territory included the provincial capital of Isulan and the municipalities of Bagumbayan and Ninoy Aquino. The townsfolk who lived in these areas, and who are familiar with the turmoil during the 1970s and the 1980s, remember how he led various attacks against military forces. *Kumander* Gubat added that he also led campaigns against the expansion of logging concessions in the mountains of Sultan Kudarat.

Harrowing tales

"The rising hostility between Christians and Muslims brought immeasurable destruction to our lives," *Kumander* Gubat says in Filipino. "I have friends and relatives among those detained by government troops, and their tales are so harrowing, I have buried them in the recesses of my mind. *Sana mabura na lahat sa isipan ko* (I hope they will fade from memory)," he says soberly.

Like all warriors of their time, secessionist rebels take up arms early. A turbulent environment plays a vital role in the turn of events, often aggravated by deaths in the family, fleeing neighbors and constant terror. *Kumander* Gubat says he did not have the chance to finish Grade 3 at all because his family had to constantly move from one place to another. "It was different as soon as I stepped out from the cocoon of domestication. It was a world filled with uncertainty, and I knew that I wanted to take up arms to defend my homeland," he confesses.



Once at war. With his certificate of appointment as an MNLF zone commander

A "career" with the MNLF at a young age paved the way for involvement in the armed struggle. *Kumander* Gubat was a child-soldier recruited at age 15. He and other young boys his age were also wooed by the government, but the promise of restoring Mindanao for the Muslims was the paramount concern that made him join his own people. "I was assigned to cook food and deliver it to the field. Then I became a courier, gathering and giving out information on the movements of government troops." *Kumander* Gubat beams with pride, recalling the time when senior MNLF commanders gave him the moniker "*Batang Gubat*" (Child of the Forest). He had a great familiarity with the terrain, and negotiated the area with agility and speed. The happiest part came in his sixth month in the movement, when he got the surprise of his life from his superiors—a carbine.

One thing important to *Kumander* Gubat was how he successfully carried out his defense plans. He knew that outside of Central Mindanao, fame or notoriety had earned him popularity, but what he really dreamed of for Mindanao was peace, development and providing for the people's basic needs.

Even at age 20, when *Kumander* Gubat openly discussed with his parents the possibility of having a family of his own, everything had to be under control. "I didn't have the time to leave the barracks to find a future partner in life. I gave up the idea because I knew early on that I had to separate my personal life from my duties as a soldier. You have to control your emotions; otherwise your subordinates will not respect you as their commander." Instead of scouting around, he spent his time deep in the mountains, while his parents looked for his future wife.

As a fighter, *Kumander* Gubat said he was precise. He was a tactician who demanded evaluation before a strategy was undertaken. His main concern, he adds, was the welfare of the people. "If the community would adversely bear the consequences of our defense plans, then we would cancel them," he explains.

In September 1996, when the peace agreement between the government and the MNLF reached an accord, *Kumander* Gubat decided to lay down his arms. He says he did so to observe the goings-on and be part of development schemes that would concretize his dream of Mindanao as a better place to live. He confesses that he was tired of armed struggles and merely wanted to stay put and be with his seven growing children, the eldest of whom had just graduated from high school. He was also aware that his influence could be put to good use, knowing that most areas would still be in transition. "You must understand that the war was everyone's worst nightmare, and that it takes a lifetime to rebuild shattered lives."

Living our dreams

Kumander Gubat turned to developmental work. He still nurtures dreams of a separate state for Mindanao, but unless poverty is eased, he believes any peace plan would not take effect. He is also aware that there were some ranking MNLF officials who made money from the negotiations, leaving the common people penniless. But *Kumander* Gubat can only heave a sigh and shrug his shoulders. "I believe peace should not only be about words, but actions implemented at the forefront. We should all learn how to forgive and move on, so we can live our dreams."

In time, *Kumander* Gubat was leading foreign funding agencies into Sultan Kudarat. The people he fought for trusted him so much. He solicited fertilizers and seeds, initiated goat-raising programs and acquired a corn sheller. At the time of this interview, he was overseeing the construction of a micro-hydro facility in Sitio Senagandahl, courtesy of the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program (AMORE), and was excited about the P1.14 million from the Grant Assistance for the Grassroots Project of the Japanese Embassy for potable water systems.

Kumander Gubat may be effective in all this because of his clout and influence as a former MNLF rebel, but he attributes his success to the trust of the people. Asked if he ever tells his children about the days of a war-torn Mindanao, he briskly shakes his head. "I have never told my children about my MNLF days, and I would never make any attempt to do so. I want them to concentrate on their studies. The peaceful situation right now is all we want, so I don't want their lives to ever become like mine. But if the situations calls for it, I believe that without my prodding, my children would also take up arms and fight."

Kumander Gubat's world may have been filled with war, but he believes this was a necessary price to pay for a better life for the youth. "You can lay me to rest any time you want," says this defender of Mindanao, "but peace should reign first in my homeland." Q

This Week

Art

Hiraya Gallery sets up a solo exhibit of recent acrylic works by Norberto Carating titled **Rupture** at Cena, Greenbelt 2 Parkside, Ayala Center, Makati City until May 20. For details, call 523-3331.

Episodes: Still Photos of the Unstill Mind, a photo exhibit on the patients of the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong by Jose Enrique Soriano at the Lobby Gallery of the UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC until May 8. For details, call 928-1927.

An Oriental flavor runs through the **New Works on Paper** by painter-sculptor Roberto M.A. Robles at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A from May 5-29. For details, call 634-3261.

Off Color Tales, a exhibit of oil paintings by Billy Atienza at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until May 10.

Oil paintings by Billy Atienza in "Off Color Tales," at Finale Art Gallery

Boston Gallery (72 Boston St., Cubao, QC) presents simultaneous solo exhibits until May 25. CJ Tañedo showcases his recent canvases in **Sanctuaries** at the Lower Gallery. At the Upper Gallery, Christopher Zamora explores the voyeur's gaze in a series of works titled ***Silip***. For details, call 722-9205.

Jack Salud, a pointillist artist known for his rustic figures, presents his new works in acrylic in **Dotted Arias III** at Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center from May 6 to June 3. For details, call 728-9724.

Music

On May 13 and May 15, Catholic lay preacher and singer-songwriter Alvin Barcelona will hold his first major concert **Believe** at the Party Central Concert Lounge, Mother Ignacia Avenue (across ABS-CBN) with Bo Sanchez (only on May 13), Arun Gogna, Adrian Panganiban, Obet Cabrillas, Jon Escoto, Francis Jonathan, Rissa Singson, Mike Joseph and upcoming young talent, Rinka, with Alvin's son Aio, who will interpret songs of Michael Jackson. For reservations, contact Beaconlight at 722-9562 and look for Beckie.

Catch **Jed Madela** perform at Greenbelt II on Mondays, Red Door on Thursdays, and Aruba (Metrowalk) on Fridays. Jed goes on provincial tour with "Songs Rediscovered Live" on May 14 at Plaza Beatriz Hotel in Ozamiz City, followed by Ratsky Cebu City on May 15, and Iloilo City on May 16. He also goes onstage for a show for Winston at the Megastrip on May 20. For inquiries about Jed and his gigs and tours, e-mail gerianne@pldtdsl.net.

Atbp

This weekend all roads will lead to Le Pavillion Tent at Roxas Boulevard for this month's **Lifestyle Bazaar** open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 1. Check out the latest budget-friendly garments and accessories from top exporters and importers. Bazaar exhibitors will also offers deli treats like pasta sauces, salad dressing, cakes and pastries to spice up weekend get-togethers.

The Next Step Events Planner invites exhibitors and contestants to join the second **It's A Kid's World Fair 2005** slated on May 6-8 at SM Megatrade Hall 3 in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. There will be fun-filled activities with entertainment, interactive and learning activities and discovery for kids 1 to 10 years old. There will also be a Search for Mr. And Ms Kids World 2005 open to kids 4-7 years old, Model Search, on-the-spot Essay Writing Contest for kids 9-13 years old, Recycled Art Contest, on-the-spot photo contest, Kiddie Group dance contest, Mom and Daughter or Dad and Son tandem Photo contest, raffle and many more. For details, call 813-0148 and 893-9729.

Sinag Arts Foundation invites hobbyists to the **Ikebana Everybody Workshop**, a workshop on the Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement to be held on May 2 and 16, June 6 and 20 and July 4, five sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. at Sinag Arts Studio. For inquiries and reservations, call Sinag Arts Foundation at 531-3491 and telefax 531-9524.

Loreto Apilado of the Cottage Industry Technology Center will hold two workshops for six Saturday at the Lopez Memorial Museum, G/F, Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig City starting May 7. The **Book Arts Workshop** is every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon where participants are taught to make books of different structures, sizes, colors and textures. The Book Binding Workshop is every Saturday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. and will focus on modern binding techniques. Workshop fee is P3,000 and P3,500 respectively inclusive of materials. For reservations, call Fanny at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

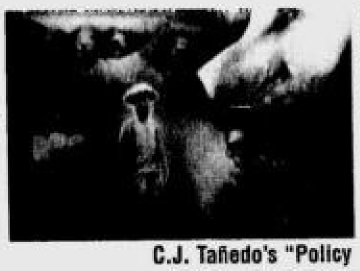
Pag-alaala: Cheers to Nick Joaquin! A Celebration of His Life and Works, a special tribute on the occasion of Joaquin's first death anniversary and his 88th birthday on May 4.There will be an exhibit of Nick Joaquin's works and memorabilia at the NCCA Lobby, Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila until May 4. It will also feature the NCCA-GMA 7 produced film "Siglo Filipino! Odyssey of a Nation" at the NCCA's Teatro Leandro Locsin at 4 p.m. until May 4. A special TV tribute, "Memories of Nick Joaquin," will be shown on NBN-4 on May 2.

"Dotted Arias III" by Jack Salud, on view at Gallery 139

X-manila

The **Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops** will be held from May 9 to 13 at the Conference Center and Hotel at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City. Courses include Directing Film, Scriptwriting for Film Features, Production Design for Film, Cinematography, Indie Videomaking, Digital Editing, Making Informative Radio Show Entertaining, and How to Draw Manga. For inquiries, call (02) 926-1883 or (02) 925-1916 or the secretariat in Tagaytay 413-3840.

Neocolours, one of the well-loved and phenomenal bands of the 1990's will be featured in a concert **Neocolours... *Tuloy Pa Rin!*** on May 7 at the NCCC Convention Hall in Matina, Davao City at 7 p.m. Giveaways and raffle prizes await lucky concertgoers. Tickets priced at P250, P200 and P150 are available at NCCC Mall Admin. Office Reception Desk and D Net Cafe, Bolton corner Rizal Sts., Davao City.



C.J. Tañedo's "Policy of Truth," on exhibit at Boston Gallery

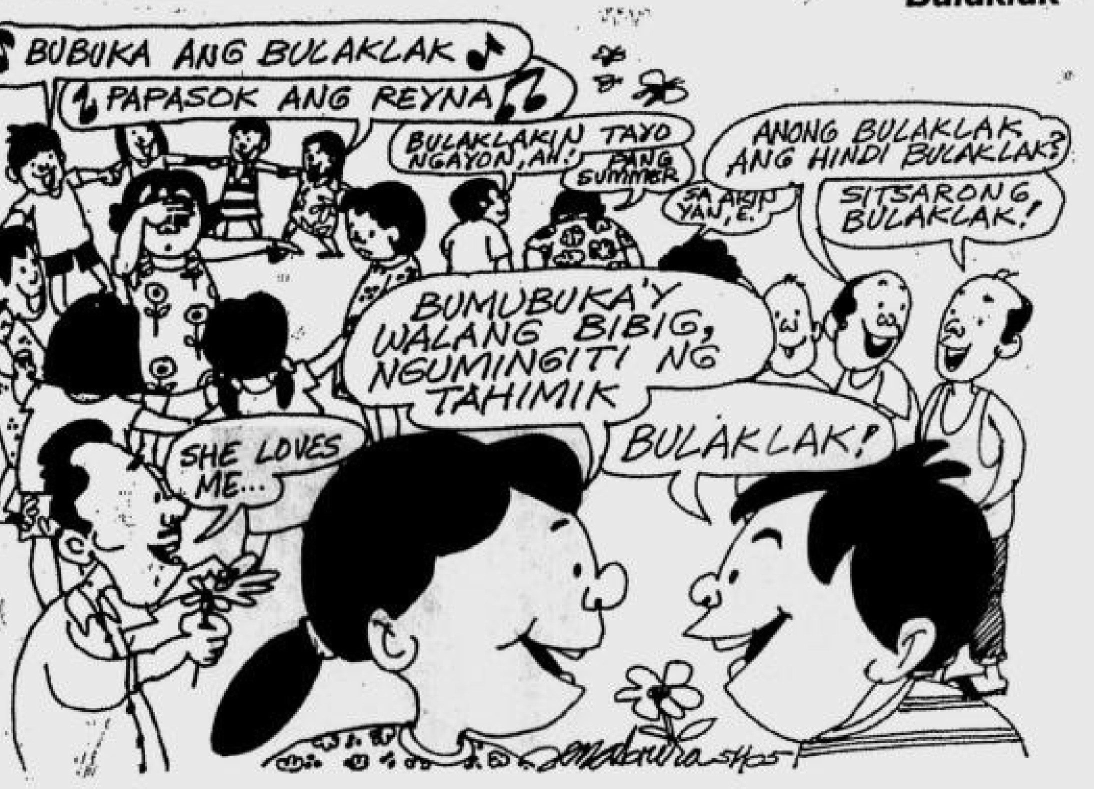
Batch 1969 of the Marcelo H. del Pilar High School of Malolos, Bulacan will mark its 36th year with a **general homecoming and reunion** on May 7, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Malolos Club Royale, along Km. 40, MacArthur Highway corner Fausta Road, City of Malolos. It will be a day of fun, prizes and surprises as the association will award full scholarship to three new incoming freshman students who will pursue four-year courses at the Bulacan State University. A new set of members of the Board of Directors will also be elected during the affair. For details, call Regie de Jesus-Pagdanganan at (044) 791-9989 or 0910-3407669.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera

Bulaklak


BUBUKA ANG BULAKLAK
PAPASOK ANG REYNA
BULAKLAKIN TAYO NGAYON, AH!
PANG SUMMER
ANONG BULAKLAK ANG HINDI BULAKLAK?
SA AKIN YAN, E.
SITSARONG BULAKLAK!
BUMUBUKA'Y WALANG BIBIG, NGUMINGITI NG TAHIMIK
SHE LOVES ME...
BULAKLAK!
Abrera

This...*from page 5*

fluid for half an hour. The following day, the swelling was gone.

A miracle

"When I went back to the doctor, she asked me when my son died. I told her, here he is. She wouldn't believe me. I still get goose pimples every time I tell the story. To me, it's a miracle."

Several years later, it was Santayana's turn to be struck by a rare disease. "I developed dystonia of the neck," he says. "It's a neurological condition where the neck twists to one side involuntarily. I had to wear a cervical collar and my maid had to hold my head down so I could eat."

Seven neurologists concurred that there was no cure. This was in 1955. He consulted specialists in New York and Pittsburgh, who gave him the same answer. He even went to a faith healer, who took one look and said he couldn't offer any help. Finally, he went to Lourdes, France where miraculous cures had been reported from bathing in the spring waters. He took his bath, got dressed and left.

A few days later, during a party in San Francisco, Santayana got the surprise of his life when he stood up to dance and his neck suddenly straightened out. Many years later, he met a medical researcher who specialized in dystonia. The researcher—who refused to believe that Santayana had suffered from the disease—told him that no cure had yet been reported.

Dr. Santayana shows no signs of slowing down.

"I still feel like I'm in my forties," he says. "Although when someone makes an appointment with me two or three days hence, I tell them: *tawagan mo na lang ako* (call me first). At my age, *baka wala na ako dito* (I might be gone by then)."

For the last 50 years, he has been the president of his UST class's alumni association ("Not because I'm a good president, but because I'm the last man standing."). He still attends the monthly reunion and edits the club's monthly newsletter which, some might think morbidly, keeps a monthly headcount of who's still alive and who's passed on.

He has lived a charmed life, and the best way he knows to repay God for his blessings is to live it to the fullest. Most of his few remaining contemporaries need help unzipping their pants, but the doctor still likes to go out on dates once in a while. He has, in fact, been living the life of a swinging bachelor since being widowed eight years ago.

"Unhappily married or separated women are my preference," he confesses. "I don't like widows because they're too aggressive."

In fact, he ended a two-year relationship with a 39-year-old woman a couple of years ago, when she decided to migrate to the US. The inherent comic implications of an 86-year-old man dating a woman less than half his age are not lost on him.

"I used to wonder what people thought," he says. "Are they thinking: What a lucky guy with that good-looking girl! More likely they're thinking: Who the hell is that old guy and what's he doing with that girl?"

Staying alive, that's what.

Doctor Jazz: "After hearing good live music, I can sleep very well."

An Artist...*from page 2*

Robert C. F. Ho of Shanghai, who was then taking his graduate studies in transportation at Columbia University. The initial conversation was awkward, for upon reading her name tag, he commented, "My goodness, you certainly have a long name." Miffed, Anita answered, "And your name is too short."

Her eventual marriage to Ho, whose family was in coastal shipping in China and Japan even then, produced five children, 14 grandchildren, and the incomparable adventure of having lived in the US, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and China. It was a charmed life, with Ho's business interests dictating where the next city of residence would be. It has been 36 homes since, including an island summer home and a yacht—and Anita is still counting.

Sense of security

While she rues the fact that being wife and mother in various parts of the world has taken away from her painting time, she is grateful to her husband of 57 years for giving her a sense of fearlessness and security in all the places they have lived in, enough for her to manage to paint freely and "without worry." For she is certainly far from being a hungry artist.

While in Hong Kong, her grandson Rashid Delgado came home from school and found his grandmother in her studio, deep in concentration, painting. He was concerned that she still had to work so hard at her age, and asked, "Why, *Lola*? *Lolo* does not give you enough money?"

"I love my country," Anita says, and a 1944 poem, "A Painter's Dream" ("Ah, where is—that lovely place/I used to call my native land"), expresses her deep attachment to the land of her birth. Thus, it was heartbreaking for her to return to the Philippines from the US after the communist takeover in China, where the Hos were to take up residence—and discover to her surprise that Robert could not be granted a permanent resident status and that she was no longer a Filipino citizen but a Chinese, and could no longer possess a Philippine passport. "I felt I had lost everything", she recalls. "Robert had just lost his country, and so did I."

But the Hos quickly bounced back to normalcy with the establishment of Magsaysay Lines in 1948 by her father, her brother Mike, and Robert, for which he obtained a working visa. The shipping company is now 57 years old, as old as their marriage, and she is again back in Manila, coming full circle, it seems.

Now a Canadian passport holder—the only reason, it is said, she has not been named National Artist—she spends much of the year in Manila, where she has the leisure to paint all day. She only stops for lunch and a brief viewing of Cito Beltran's "Straight Talk." At the end of the day, she dines out at the various fast food outlets in nearby malls with her retinue of househelp, who also travel with her to Canada. How long does she stay overseas? "Just as long as the resources last. McDonald's there is so expensive!"

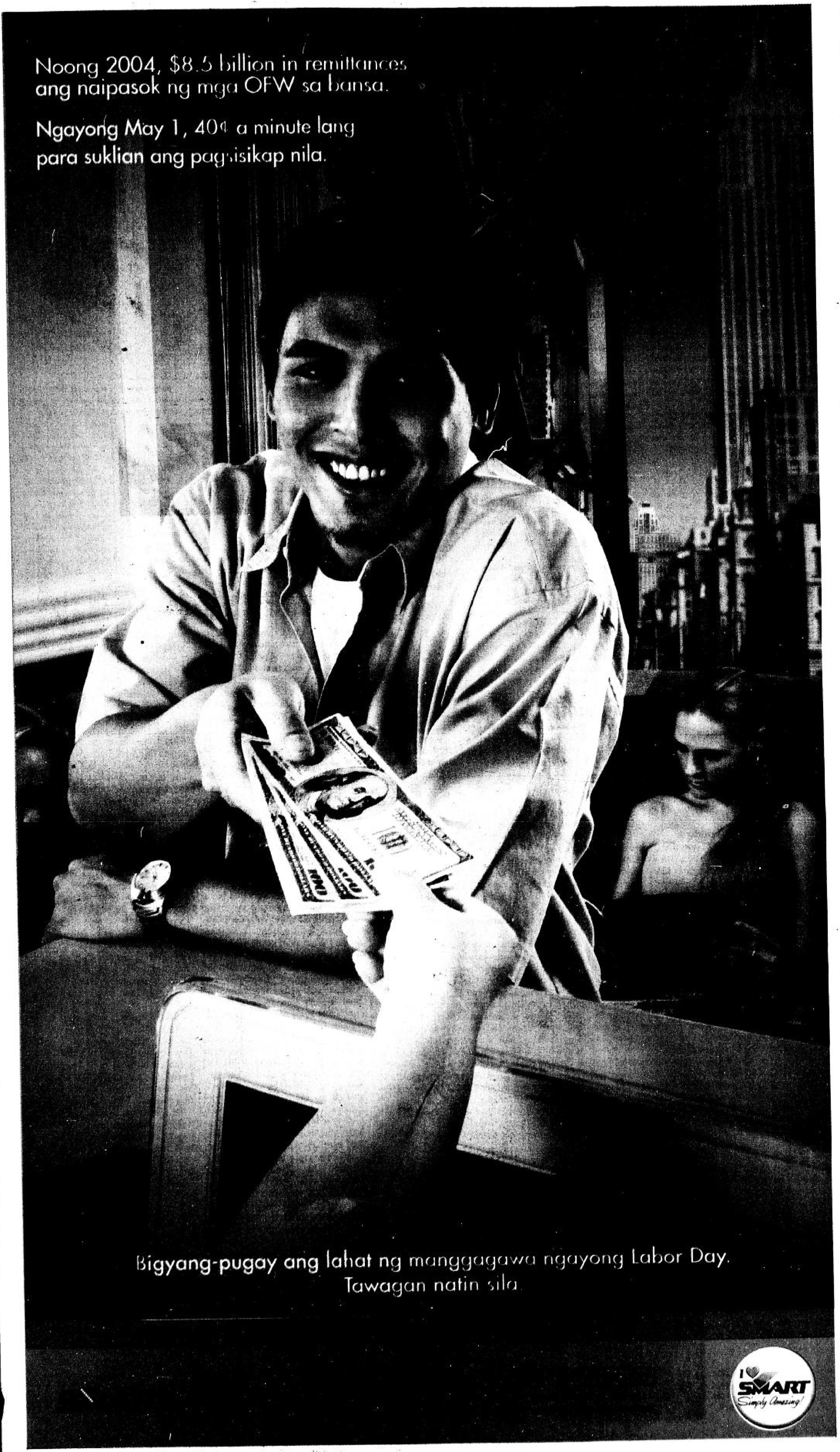
Master mentor

Always dressed and mobile with the help of a walker, she has of late been visible in social functions and art openings. In the span of a month, one met her at a lunch with President Cory Aquino at Joe and Marivic Concepcion's new home in Talisay; at the Metrobank exhibit opening at the MET; at a Ryan Cayabyab concert at St. Cecilia's Hall, and at the Shangri-La Makati coffee shop lobby with daughter Doris in a huddle with Monique Villongco and Philippine Tatler 's Anton San Diego. "Doris takes me everywhere," she half-complains

Before Christmas, she was busy finishing hundreds of prints, assisted by her house help, who are now seasoned in the technique. The rush job was a special order from Doris, Magsaysay Lines' CEO, herself dabbling in painting these days, with mentoring tips from the master herself.

The very first painting Anita sold was a watercolor entitled "Farm Boy," which Carlos Quirino bought for P5! With her paintings now prized and coveted favorites at international auction houses, Anita says that it is the current owners who benefit directly from such transactions, and not she. In fact, her family now wants to buy back some of her favorite paintings, requesting their owners to please sell them back to them first before anyone else. A special favorite of hers in her preferred egg tempera medium, "In the Marketplace" (1955), bought by a Japanese woman, who sold it to Sotheby's. It is now part of the Lopez Museum Collection.

Enjoying the simplicity of her lifestyle today, Anita feels blessed to still be able to do what she enjoys most. In her characteristic shy and reticent manner, she says, "I don't want to be famous. I don't want to be known, but now I can't help it anymore. I only want to paint, I love it."



Noong 2004, $8.5 billion in remittances ang naipasok ng mga OFW sa bansa.

Ngayong May 1, 40¢ a minute lang para suklian ang pagsisikap nila.

Bigyang-pugay ang lahat ng manggagawa ngayong Labor Day.
Tawagan natin sila.

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!